



**Division of Childcare and Early
Childhood Education
PROGRAM & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

P.O. BOX 1437, SLOT S160 · LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203-1437
501-320-8983 · Fax: 501-682-4897 · TDD: 501-682-1550



Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential

The DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education offers a Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential that is created to provide an additional professional pathway for individuals wishing to pursue a more advanced level of knowledge and skill in working with young children and their families. **This provides a route to higher education for the preparation of teachers for all children, birth through age five, including children with special needs.**

Individuals applying for this credential are not required to pay a fee for submitting an application OR obtaining the credential, **BUT MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM EDUCATION LEVELS BY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PATHWAYS:**

1. Completion of 18-27 college credit hours in early childhood development and early childhood *focused specifically* on infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with no course grade below a "C".
2. Complete an associate or bachelor's degree which includes the Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten teaching Competencies which will appear within the 18-27 college credit hours focused specifically on infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.
3. Add the Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten teaching Competencies to an existing two or four year degree.
4. An individual *coming from another state within the United States* may be issued the credential by fulfilling items 1-3 and need not to have an associate degree.
5. An individual *coming from outside the United States* may be issued the credential by also fulfilling items 1-3 and need not to have an associate degree.

The Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential shall become effective upon the date of issue and shall be valid for five (5) years. The Credential shall expire five (5) years from the effective date as reflected on the Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential.

An individual holding the Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential shall complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of professional development annually in early childhood development OR early childhood education. At least 10 of the 30 hours should be in the areas of Special Populations, English as a Second Language, Nutrition, Health and Safety of Infants and Toddlers. This professional development shall be approved and documented by the Arkansas Department of Education OR the Traveling Arkansas Professional Pathways Registry (TAPP).

THE ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR A BIRTH THROUGH PREKINDERGARTEN TEACHING CREDENTIAL IS OUTLINED ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.

The Attachment Checklist For
The Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten
Teaching Credential

- Complete application form.
- Attach NOCTI scores (minimum score of 70 required) verifying content knowledge in Early Childhood.
- Complete criminal background check **OR** show verification of completion.
- Complete Child Maltreatment Central Registry check **OR** show verification of completion.
- Attach an official college transcript(s) showing Early Childhood Courses.
- Attach course objectives/competencies for each Early Childhood Course.
- Send a cover letter, **application**, and transcript(s) to:

Attention: Program and Professional Development Administrator
Arkansas Birth to Prekindergarten Teaching Credential
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-160
Little Rock, AR 72201-1437

**The Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten
Teaching Credential Application**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Country/Region: _____

City/Providence: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___ **SNN#:** _____

Phone#: ___ - ___ - ___ **E-mail:** _____

***Be sure to INCLUDE ALL ATTACHMENTS REQUIRED along with this form to be mailed to the address below:**

Attention: Program and Professional Development Administrator
Arkansas Birth to Prekindergarten Teaching Credential
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-160
Little Rock, AR 72201-1437