



## Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential

In 2009, Act 187 was passed to lay the foundation for the Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential. This credential creates an additional professional pathway for individuals seeking a more advanced level of knowledge and skills in working with young children and their families.

The DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) recognizes the importance and need for having highly educated professionals to work with children from birth through age five, including children with special needs. This credential supports this need by providing a route for individuals to obtain higher level learning courses that align with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) core competencies. Although the credential does not replace the Arkansas Early Childhood/Special Education Birth through Kindergarten teaching license, it can be added to an associate's or bachelor's degree to designate specialized knowledge in the early education field.

Individuals are not required to pay a fee to apply or obtain the credential, **but must meet the following criteria:**

- Complete 18-27 specific college credit hours from the Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Competencies core group of classes. These courses align with NAEYC's core competencies and are focused on infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Course grades below a "C" **will not** be accepted.
- Meet the qualifications of the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) Criminal Background Check **and** Child Maltreatment Central Registry Check.
- Make a minimum score of 70 on the NOCTI early childhood education assessment test.

**Out of state applicants** may be issued the Credential by fulfilling the minimum requirements listed above. College coursework must align with NAEYC's core competencies.

The Arkansas 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.

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 or Infants and Toddlers. This professional development shall be approved and documented by the Arkansas Department of Education OR the Arkansas Professional Development Registry (PDR).



## Arkansas Birth through Prekindergarten Teaching Credential

To apply, mail this completed application and all required documents to the address below.

### Application:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ SSN#: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications that do not include all the required documentation will be denied.

### Required documents to include with your application:

- Cover letter including your name, what you are applying for, why you are applying, and your signature
- NOCTI (ECE test) scores (minimum score of 70 required)
- Criminal Background check (through DCCECE)
- Child Maltreatment Central Registry check (through DCCECE)
- Official** college transcript(s) showing Early Childhood Courses
- Instructor's college syllabus indicating the objectives/competencies for each Early Childhood Course

**Mail completed application form and all required documents to:**

DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education  
Arkansas Birth to Prekindergarten Teaching Credential  
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S-160  
Little Rock, AR 72203-1437