

**7.702.44.A.1 AN EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER (FORMERLY GROUP LEADER),  
assigned responsibility for a single group of children and working under the supervision of a director,  
must be at least 18 years of age and must meet one of the following options:**

<b>A – I Options</b>	<b>Education Requirement</b>	<b>Experience Requirement</b>
A. A Bachelor's (4 year) degree.	Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college/university in one of the following areas: 1)Early Childhood Education (ECE); 2)Elementary Education; 3)Special Education; 4)Family and Child Development; 5)Child Psychology	No additional experience required.
B. A Bachelor's (4 year) degree in an unrelated area.	Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college/university with a major area of study in an area other than those listed in option A, AND two three-semester hour ECE courses, one of which must be either Intro to ECE <b>or</b> Guidance Strategies **	No additional experience required.
C. Current early childhood professional Credential Level III Version 2.0.	Current Early Childhood Professional Credential Level III, Version 2.0	No additional experience required.
D. A 2-year college degree, sixty (60) semester hours.	2-year college degree from a regionally accredited college/university in Early Childhood Education, which must include at least two three-semester hour ECE courses one of which must be either Intro to E.C.E. <b>or</b> Guidance Strategies **	Six (6) months (910 hours) of satisfactory experience.
E. Twelve (12) semester hours in college-level credits in Early Childhood.	12 semester hours in Early Childhood Education from a regionally accredited college/university, one of the three-semester hour ECE courses must be either Intro to ECE <b>or</b> Guidance Strategies **	Nine (9) months (1,395 hours) of satisfactory experience

F. Completion of a vocational or occupational education sequence in child growth and development.	Completion of vocational/occupational education sequence in child growth and development	Twelve (12) months (1,820 hours) of satisfactory experience
G. Child Development Associate (CDA).	Current certification as a Child Development Associate (CDA) or other Department-approved credential.	No additional experience required.
H. Completion of a course of training approved by the Department.	Completion of a Department approved course of training. Approved Trainings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Montessori Training approved for MECR, Montessori Centre International, AMI, or AMS</li> <li>• Delta Montrose Technical Center / Technical College of the Rockies</li> <li>• Buell Early Childhood Leadership Institute</li> <li>• RRCC Intro to Childcare Development Specialist</li> </ul>	Twelve (12) months (1,820 hours) of satisfactory experience
I. A current Colorado Level I, 1.0, credential or two three-semester hour early childhood education college courses from a regionally accredited college or university.	A current Colorado Level I credential (version 1.0) OR two 3-semester hour college courses, one of which must be Intro to ECE <b>or</b> Guidance Strategies. **	Twenty-four (24) months (3,640 hours) of satisfactory experience

\* All college course grades toward Early Childhood Teacher qualifications must be “C” or better.

\*\* Expanding Quality in Infant-Toddler Care (EQIT) may be substituted for Infant and Toddler Theory and Practice, and Pyramid Plus training may be substituted for Guidance Strategies, with a verification certificate from the trainer.

\*\*\* Early Childhood Teacher qualification letter will expire when CDA or Colorado Early Childhood Professional Credential expires.

**Satisfactory experience is the care and supervision of four (4) or more children less than six (6) years of age, who are not related to the applicant. Experience may include being a licensee of a Colorado family child care home, or a teacher’s aide or teacher in a child care center, preschool, or elementary school.**