

Polk County Schools CDAT

What is a CDAT?

Polk County Schools PreK programs use the term CDAT - Child Development Associate Teacher - to describe the prekindergarten classroom instructor for School Readiness, school year VPK, Head Start, Florida First Start and high school child development classrooms. This is a Para-educator position.

What type of credential is required to be a CDAT?

The CDAT must have earned *one* of the credentials listed below. The credential presented must be current.

- ❑ **An Associates degree in Early Childhood /Child Development** is two-year college degree, earned at an accredited, recognized institution with emphasis (18 hours or more) in early childhood or child growth and development.

- ❑ **National CDA Credential:** A Child Development Associate (CDA) is an individual who has successfully completed the CDA assessment process and has been awarded the National CDA Credential. CDAs are able to meet the specific needs of children and work with parents and other adults to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework. The credential is granted by the Council for Professional Recognition. Want to learn more? Refer to <http://www.cdacouncil.org>

- ❑ **A Child Development Associate Equivalency** The CDAE is now **called the Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC)** is a DCF approved training program that consists of a minimum of 120 hours of early childhood instruction, 480 contact hours with children ages birth through eight (8) and at least two (2) methods of formal assessment that offers two (2) areas of certification; "Birth Through Five (formerly the department approved CDA Equivalency training programs)" and "School-Age (formerly the Florida School-Age Certification)." Want to learn more? Refer to <https://training01-dcf.myflorida.gov/dcf/cct/html/schoolagecred.html2pdf>
Or contact Polk Community College Early Childhood Program. 863-297-1024
(Note: Polk County Schools Preschool Program requires a minimum of 18 college hours in early childhood to accompany an FCCPC.)

What is the salary range for CDATs?

Salary for CDATs (pay grade: PA07) can be reviewed on-line at <http://www.polk-fl.net/staff/employeeinfo/hrs/personnel.htm> under Para-educator pay. Other benefits are described on-line at the web address.