COMPETENCY GOALS, FUNCTIONAL AREAS, CONTENT AREAS AND EXAMPLES

COMPETENCY GOALS	FUNCTIONAL AREAS	CONTENT AREAS*	EXAMPLES
I. To establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment.	1.Safe: Candidate provides a safe environment to prevent and reduce injuries. 2.Healthy: Candidate promotes good health and nutrition and provides an environment that contributes to the prevention of illness. 3.Learning Environment: Candidate uses space, relationships, materials & routines as resources for constructing an interesting, secure, and enjoyable environment that encourages play, exploration, & learning.	1. Planning a safe, healthy learning environment	Safety, first aid, health, nutrition, space planning, materials and equipment, play
II. To advance physical and intellectual competence.	4.Physical: Candidate provides a variety of equipment, activities, and opportunities to promote the physical development of children. 5.Cognitive: Candidate provides activities and opportunities that encourage curiosity, exploration, and problem solving appropriate to the developmental levels and learning styles of children. 6.Communication: Candidate actively communicates with children and provides opportunities and support for children to understand, acquire, & use verbal & nonverbal means of communicating thoughts & feelings. 7.Creative: Candidate provides opportunities that stimulate children to play with sound, rhythm, language, materials, space and ideas in individual ways and to express their creative abilities.	2. Advancing children's physical & intellectual development.	Large and small muscle, language and literacy, discovery, art, music
		8. Principles of child growth & development.	Developmental milestones from birth through age 5, cultural influences on development
III. To support social and emotional development and to provide positive guidance.	8.Self: Candidate provides physical and emotional security for each child and helps each child to know, accept and take pride in himself or herself and to develop a sense of independence. 9.Social: Candidate helps each child fell accepted in the group, helps children learn to communicate and get along with others, and encourages feelings of empathy and mutual respect among children and families. 10.Guidance: Candidate provides a supportive environment in with children can begin to learn and practice appropriate and acceptable behaviors as individuals and as a group.	3. Supporting positive social & emotional development.	Self-esteem, independence, self-control, socialization
		7. Observing and recording children's behavior.	Tools and strategies for objective information collection
IV. To establish positive and productive relationships with families.	11.Families: Candidate maintains an open, friendly, and cooperative relationship with each child's family, encourages their involvement in the program, and support the child's relationship with his or her family.	4. Establishing productive relationships with families.	Parent involvement, home visits, conferences, referrals
V. To ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs.	12. Program Management: Candidate is a manager who uses all available resources to ensure an effective operation. The Candidate is a competent organizer, planner, record keeper, communicator, and a cooperative co-worker.	5. Managing an effective program operation.	Planning, record keeping, reporting
VI. To maintain a commitment to professionalism.	13.Professionalism: Candidate makes decisions based on knowledge of early childhood theories and practices. Candidate promotes quality in childcare services. Candidate takes advantage of opportunities to improve competence, both for personal and professional growth and for the benefit of children and families.	6. Maintaining a commitment to professionalism.	Advocacy, ethical practices, work force issues, professional association

A total of 120 clock hours is needed to complete a CDA.
At least 10 hours must be completed in all 8 subject/content areas.
Each candidate must also complete an additional 40 hours.
Please note: the numbers from the 3rd column align with the Council's application.