

CDA Competency Goals and Functional Areas

CDA Competency Goal	Functional Area	Definitions
I. To establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment	1. Safe	Student provides a safe environment to prevent and reduce injuries.
	2. Healthy	Student promotes good health and nutrition and provides an environment that contributes to the prevention of illness.
	3. Learning Environment	Student uses space, relationships, materials and routines as resources for constructing an interesting, secure, and enjoyable environment that encourages play, exploration, and learning.
II. To advance physical and intellectual competence	4. Physical	Student provides a variety of equipment, activities and opportunities to promote physical development of children.
	5. Cognitive	Student provides activities and opportunities that encourage curiosity, exploration and problem solving appropriate to the development levels and learning styles of children.
	6. Communication	Student actively communicates with children and provides opportunities and support for student to understand, acquire and use verbal and nonverbal means of communicating thoughts and feelings.
	7. Creative	Students provides opportunities that stimulate children to play with sound, rhythm, language, materials, space and ideas in individual ways and to express their creative abilities.
III. To support social and emotional development and provide positive guidance	8. Self	Student provides physical and emotional security for each child and helps each child to know, accept and take pride in him/herself and to express their creative abilities.
	9. Social	Student helps each child feel accepted in the group, helps children learn to communicate and get along with other and encourages feelings of empathy and mutual respect among children and adults.
	10. Guidance	Student provides a supportive environment in which children can begin to learn and practice appropriate and acceptable behaviors as individuals and as a group.
IV. To establish positive and productive relationships with families.	11. Families	Student maintains an open, friendly and cooperative relationship with each child's family, encourages their involvement in the program and supports the child's relationship with his or her family.
V. To ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs	12. Program Management	Student is a manager who uses all available resources to ensure an effective operation. The student is a competent organizer, planner, record keeper, communicator, and a cooperative co-worker.
VI. To maintain a commitment to professionalism	13. Professionalism	Student makes decisions based on knowledge of early childhood theories and practices, promotes quality in child care services and takes advantage of opportunities to improve competence, both for personal and professional growth and for the benefit of children and families.