

## College Credit Is Available to You

Educators in childhood care know that your training and experience are important to Oregon's working families and their children. That's why community colleges are eager to offer you college credits that reflect your hard work, knowledge, and dedication. They want to help you continue on your career path. You can now receive 9 to 15 college credits for your Child Development Associate credential (CDA) or Step 7 on the Oregon Registry. To find out more, call the early childhood education program advisor at your local community college.

- Make the child care training you've already taken count
- Share and learn with others just like you
- Learn new skills that will make your job easier
- Be recognized for the experience and knowledge you already have
- Get started on the path to earning a college degree



*You're invited to*

## Take Your Child Care Experience to College!

Did you know that the experience you've gained caring for children can get you into college? It's true! The important work you do for kids every day and the child care training you've taken can now help you jump-start college and a professional career in early childhood education. Find out how!

*Taking classes has helped me expand my business. I'm a much better child care provider.*  
—Lisa R.

*Going back to school has boosted my confidence. I realized I was smarter than I thought!*  
—Ruth L.

## Think College Is Beyond Your Reach? Think Again!

*“I have no time.”*

When you think about attending college, is this the first thought that pops into your head?

Then you need to know that community college classes in early childhood education have been designed especially for people like you who are *working* child care professionals. The key word is *flexible*. Many classes are offered online so you don't need to be on campus for every class. You can complete the work at the time of day that is best for you. There are classes in the evenings and on weekends, too.

*“I can't afford it.”*

If it's money that seems to stand between you and college-level work, you'll be happy to learn that financial help is available now! Because you are already working with children, there is money available to help pay for your classes.

### To learn more, contact:

- Your early childhood education program advisor at your local community college.
- Your professional development mentor at your local child care resource and referral agency.
- The Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education: (503) 725-8535 or (877) 725-8535.

Just tell them that you're ready! They'll make it easy!



*[My professional development mentor] is wonderful. She helped me step by step through the whole process, and it made it so much easier. Money was my big obstacle, and she helped me apply for a scholarship.*

—Nicole H.

*I wanted all the experience I'd gained, all the training I'd gone through, to count for something.*

—Shelly S.

*Once you've got your CDA, college is really the way you can advance yourself. My college courses have given me a bigger toolbox to handle the challenges: being better able to meet the needs of a crying child, dealing with parent issues. The more tools you have the better job you do and the more you enjoy it.*

—Heidi H.