

Level	Education Required	Annual Supplement	Six-Month Payment
4 4* 4	Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education or Master's degree in a closely related field or National Board Certification in Early Childhood	\$3,500	\$1,750
3 3*	Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education or Bachelor's degree in a closely related field	\$2,420	\$1,210
2 2*	Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education or Associate degree in a closely related field	\$1,425	\$712.50
1 1	CDA (Child Development Associate) Credential or NC Early Childhood Credential or Credential Equivalency	\$975	\$487.50

Supplements above reflect the annual award and its six-month installment amount.

*Closely related fields include Birth-Kindergarten, Child Care Administration, Child Development, Child Psychology, ECE/Special Education, ECE/Teacher Associate, Special Education, Human Growth and Development, Elementary Education, Psychology and Sociology.

To be eligible for at least one six-month payment during the fiscal year, applicants must:

- Work 40 hours per week as a lead teacher, teacher or family child care provider with infants, 1-year-olds or 2-year-olds.
- Work in a licensed child care center or home.
- Earn at or below the \$16.00 income cap.
- Have one of the education levels listed here (from regionally accredited schools).
- Work at least six months in the same child care program, as verified by an employment verification.
- Reapply annually to participate in STEP\$.