

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 and Family Development, Child and Family Studies, Child Psychology, ECE/Special Education, ECE/Teacher Associate, Elementary Education, Human Development and Family Studies, Human Growth and Development, Human Growth and Family Studies, Psychology, School Age Children, Sociology and Special Education.

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\$.