Level Two: LEAD TEACHER, INFANT-TODDLER and/or PRESCHOOL

To be certified as a Lead Teacher you must meet the requirements listed below.

You must be at least 21 years old to be a lead teacher.

Education Needed:

1. **You must meet the education requirements to be a Teacher and**;
2. **You must have completed an additional nine credits in Early Childhood Education**:
   Three credits in early childhood curriculum, program planning, or behavior management (required for preschool level) and/or three credits in infant-toddler care and education (required for infant-toddler level). The other credits may be in other early childhood education topics.

***Substitutions*:**

- A Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential substitutes for the education requirements for lead teacher.
- Continuing Education Units (CEU's) may substitute for college credit. Up to 4 CEU's may be used to substitute for 3 of the required credits.

Work Experience Needed:

1. You must have the following work experience (the number of months of experience is determined by the degree that you hold):

You must have a total of:

- 36 months of experience if you have a High School Diploma or G.E.D.,or
- 27 months of experience if you have a Certificate Program degree such as a CDA, community college, or Montessori credential, or
- 18 months of experience if you have an Associate degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field, or
- 9 months of experience if you have a Bachelor or advanced degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field.

If the date your degree was awarded is not in your transcript, please also submit a copy of your diploma.

***Substitutions*:**

- A practicum, also called student teaching, substitutes for 9 months of work experience. Credit for the practicum must be both on a transcript and a practicum verification form signed by the college supervisor.
- A pre-practicum, also called field work, is not considered a full student teaching experience and does not count towards work experience.