



## **Achieving a Northern Lights Career Development Center Level II Certificate**

There are two ways to achieve a Northern Lights Level II certificate. Completing the Level I certificate is a step towards the certificate, but not a requirement.

**Northern Lights website:** [www.northernlightscdc.org](http://www.northernlightscdc.org)

*see CAREER LADDER for an application for the Level II certificate.*

*see RESOURCES to find your local resource development specialist who can help you*

*see CURRICULA: LEVEL II to learn more about the Level II Certificate and related coursework*

*see CREDENTIALS to learn more about the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential*

### **Option 1: The Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)**

For most, achieving a CDA credential is the best route to Level II certificate. The CDA is a nationally recognized credential. Look on the Northern Lights website under: CREDENTIAL to find information about applying for a CDA and resources in Vermont to help you achieve it.

If you have a current Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) you may apply for a Level II certificate. To receive the Level II certificate you will need to complete the short application, and either send to Northern Lights or have recorded in your BFIS Quality and Credential account:

- a current CDA certificate
- a current Individualized Professional Development Plan (IPDP)

### **Option 2: Northern Lights Level II Portfolio Review**

The second way to achieve a Northern Lights Level II certificate is through a portfolio review process. This process includes collecting and submitting to Northern Lights specific documents that demonstrate you have the knowledge, skills and experience for Level II in the 5 Core Knowledge areas. The Core Knowledge areas are outlined in the *Core Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals* (on the Northern Lights web site under CORE COMPETENCIES, or get a copy from your local Resource Development Specialist).

This option should only be considered by professionals who have strong writing and organizational skills. Before you begin this process you must submit a letter requesting a portfolio review. For more details about the Northern Lights Level II portfolio review process and a list of specific criteria look on the Northern Lights website under *Curricula : Level II* or contact the Northern Lights Career Development Center.

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