



Mississippi Child Care Resource & Referral Network

Growing Mississippi's Children

PARTICIPANT'S COPY

RETAIN FOR YOUR FILES

Informed Consent for Child Development Associate Credential

Dear Early Care and Education Provider,

The **Mississippi Child Care Resource and Referral (MSCCR&R) Network** provides professional development to early care and education providers across the state. As an interested provider, you can participate in the Child Development Credentials program. The Child Development Associate (CDA) credential includes a 40-hour orientation training along with the option to continue for completion of a 120-hour CDA. You will be encouraged and mentored to complete the other 80 hours of the CDA. Additionally, if you have previously completed the CDA, you can complete the 45-hour renewal training online.

As part of the Child Development Credentials, we conduct research to gather data on the impact of the program's efforts in the child care setting. The 40-hour orientation and 120-hour credential assists new early childhood professionals using a series of online, interactive training lessons for the Infant/Toddler or Preschool credentials. As a participant you will be required to engage in face-to-face meetings with your mentor and complete classroom assignments. There are post-assessments for each module related to the content of the training module with a required 70% pass rate. For both credentials, a Field Technical Assistant will serve as a mentor throughout the process. They will conduct an initial assessment using the CDA Assessment Observation Instrument. An online tracking system through Smart Horizons will be used to track your progress as you complete the modules. You must provide a copy of your completion certificate to your mentor. The 120-hour course will take approximately one year to complete and receive your credential from the Council for Professional Recognition.

The benefits of this research project include knowledge in the area of child development, higher quality services to clients, increased professional development, receipt of staff development hours and/or continuing education units (CEUs), and contribution to the field of early childhood education by informing programmatic design. Foreseeable risks for both programs may include nervousness or tension regarding the evaluation process and discomfort due to evaluation results or expectations for change.

While participation in the project is optional and you may withdraw from the study at any time, please keep in mind that scholarship funds have been made available to you for the completion of the credentials. If you choose to withdraw from the study, the program is offered online for a nominal fee. There is no cost for you to participate in the study. However, you are required to maintain a portfolio at your own expense and your former education institution may charge you for copies of your transcripts. For the purpose of registering for the Child Development Credentials, all information must be completed on the application. Only project staff will have access to the information we collect in this study, and we will treat all of the information we collect as confidential. Your participation is entirely voluntary and you may discontinue your involvement at any time. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Mississippi State University has approved this study.

If you should have any questions about this project, contact Dr. Louise Davis, Project Director, at 662-325-3083 or by e-mail at louised@ext.msstate.edu. For additional information regarding your rights as a research subject, contact the MSU Regulatory Compliance Office at 662-325-3994.



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Two copies of this letter have been provided for you to sign. One copy is for you to keep for your records. The other is to send back to the project director. Please indicate your permission for participation in this project by signing your name below. This letter of consent is for participation in the 40-hour orientation, 120-hour CDA or the renewal credentials.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this MSCCR&R Network project with Mississippi State University. Please see the Child Development Credentials Application to register for the program.

Sincerely,

Louise E. Davis

Louise Davis, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
Mississippi State University

Participant Name: _____
Please print

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

This form must be reviewed and signed *before* beginning the Child Development Associate Credential program.

Field Technical Assistant Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Upon acceptance to the program, your mentor, or FTA, will be assigned to you.)

**Provided by the Mississippi Child Care Resource & Referral Network
and funded by the
Division of Early Childhood Care and Development, Mississippi Department of Human Services.**

www.childcaremississippi.org

866-706-8827

www.mdhs.state.ms.us

Discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran's status is a violation of federal and state law and Mississippi State University policy and will not be tolerated. Discrimination based upon sexual orientation or group affiliation is a violation of MSU policy and will not be tolerated.

MSCCR&R F017a 09/2012