

Comparing Digital Badging and Credentials: What You Need to Know

Digital Badging

The digital badges aim to set goals for providers to take their annual training requirement tailored to the age group they work with, across all of the Core Content Subject Areas. This gives a child care staff member a well-rounded and quality approach for their yearly professional development.

Digital Badges are:

- Optional
- Currently tied to an incentive of (\$50)
- Not in regulation
- Automatically tracked through progress bars in ECE-TRIS
- Valid for three years and no renewals at this time; badge may be re-issued if requirements are met at the expiration.

Digital Badges require:

- Thirty (30) hours of coursework that has the TRAINING TYPE of "Infant and Toddler" OR "School Aged"
- Training hours to cover at least 4 hours in each of the 7 Core Content Subject Areas
- Training hours to count from November 8th, 2021 through current

The Digital Badges have:

- No application to obtain (except for information to be completed for the incentive)
- No additional work experience or documentation of education required

Credentials

The Credentials aim to recognize and support child care providers through statewide credentials, honoring their training, work experience and formalized education pertaining to the age group they serve. These credentials are a step in acknowledging expertise working with specific age groups that are often overlooked.

The Credentials are:

- Optional
- Not currently tied to a monetary incentive
- In regulation
- Applied for by application in ECE-TRIS
- Renewable by application every 3 years

The Credentials require:

- Sixty (60) or 120 hours of training or coursework that has the training type "Infant and Toddler" or "School Age"
- Training to meet the hour/credit hour requirements, but does not need to be in specific subject areas (based on the level of application)
- Additional work, volunteer, or formal education, based on the level of application
- Completion of specific trainings: Introduction to DCC Credentials and ECE 119: Kentucky Strengthening Families Initiative: Trauma Informed Care and Resiliency
- Completion of a self-assessment and a letter of recommendation from a supervisor
- A current *certification* in CPR and First Aid