



Early Care and Education Career Ladder

Created to support the professional development system for early care and education professionals developed by SC Endeavors and funded by the Department of Social Services.

LEVEL 1	■ High school diploma or equivalent
LEVEL 2	■ SC Early Childhood Education Credential Level 1 – (3 ECE credit hours) ■ Degree out of field with no ECE credit hours
LEVEL 3	■ SC Early Childhood Education Credential Level 2 – (12 ECE credit hours) ■ Current/Valid National Child Development Associate (CDA)
LEVEL 4	■ SC Early Childhood Education Credential Level 3 – (21 ECE credit hours) ■ Early Childhood Certificate/Diploma – (27 ECE credit hours)
LEVEL 5	■ Associate’s Degree in a related field with 18 ECE credit hours ■ Associate’s Degree in an unrelated field and 27 ECE credit hours ■ Bachelor’s Degree or Higher out of field with 12 ECE credit hours
LEVEL 6	■ Montessori Certification AMI/USA, AMS, or other MACTE Accredited program ■ Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Education ■ Bachelor’s Degree in related field with 12 ECE credit hours ■ Bachelor’s Degree or Higher out of field with 27 ECE credit hours
LEVEL 7	■ Bachelor’s Degree in a related field with 18 ECE credit hours ■ Master’s or Doctorate Degree in a related field and 12 ECE credit hours
LEVEL 8	■ Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood ■ Master’s or Doctorate Degree in a related field and 18 ECE credit hours
LEVEL 9	■ Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Education ■ Doctoral Degree in related field with 18 ECE credit hours
LEVEL 10	■ Doctoral Degree in Early Childhood Education

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- Entry Education Tier in ABCQ
- Skilled Education Tier in ABCQ
- Accomplished Education Tier in ABCQ

SC Endeavors is part of the South Carolina Department of Social Services Division of Early Care and Education.