



**SCEndeavors**  
EARLY CARE + EDUCATION

# CAREER LADDER

The Career Ladder is a leveling tool used to acknowledge direct care providers' formal education accomplishments in the field of Early Care and Education.

## The Career Ladder can be used to:

- Track your academic accomplishments
- Plan for your professional growth
- Help contribute to advocacy efforts

The Career Ladder provides you with a roadmap for achieving your educational and professional goals. It supports you as you pursue further education to improve the quality of care for all children, offering a clear picture of where you are now in your career and where you can grow.



Want to get your education verified?  
Use this QR code to get started!





## 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.

<b>LEVEL 1</b>	■ High school diploma or equivalent
<b>LEVEL 2</b>	■ SC Early Childhood Education Credential Level 1 – (3 ECE credit hours) ■ Degree out of field with no ECE credit hours
<b>LEVEL 3</b>	■ SC Early Childhood Education Credential Level 2 – (12 ECE credit hours) ■ Current/Valid National Child Development Associate (CDA) ■ Current/Valid Montessori credential recognized by MACTE
<b>LEVEL 4</b>	■ SC Early Childhood Education Credential Level 3 – (21 ECE credit hours) ■ Early Childhood Certificate/Diploma – (27 ECE credit hours) ■ Associate's degree or higher out of field and a current Montessori credential recognized by MACTE ■ Associate's degree or higher out of field and a current CDA
<b>LEVEL 5</b>	■ Associate's degree or higher in related field and a current Montessori Credential recognized by MACTE ■ Associate's degree or higher in related field and a current CDA ■ Associate's degree in a related field with 18 ECE credit hours ■ Associate's degree in an unrelated field with 27 ECE credit hours ■ Bachelor's degree or Higher out of field with 12 ECE credit hours
<b>LEVEL 6</b>	■ 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
<b>LEVEL 7</b>	■ 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
<b>LEVEL 8</b>	■ Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood ■ Master's or Doctorate Degree in a related field and 18 ECE credit hours
<b>LEVEL 9</b>	■ Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education ■ Doctoral Degree in related field with 18 ECE credit hours
<b>LEVEL 10</b>	■ Doctoral Degree in Early Childhood Education

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- Foundational Tier
- 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.