

Licensed Child Care Center Lead Teacher Pathways

This diagram is designed to help child care providers review their role-specific education pathway options. Select the pathway and scan the QR code or click on the link to be directed to the webpage that has more information about that specific pathway.



Licensed Child Care Center Lead Teacher

HIGHER EDUCATION

(College or University)



<https://ececareers.dcyf.wa.gov>

PROVIDER ACCESS TO COMMUNITY EQUIVALENT

(PACE)



<https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/qualifications/child-care-providers/education-equivalents/pace>

EXPERIENCE

(7 years of cumulative experience working at a licensed facility by 8/1/26)



<https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/qualifications/child-care-providers/education-equivalents/experience-based-competency>

Initial Certificate

(12 credits)

Short Certificate

(8 credits)

Pace 1 and 2

(Initial Certificate Equivalent)

Pace 3 and 4

(Short Certificate Equivalent)

Job Role Education Requirement Met

If you would like free copies of this publication in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations at 1-800-723-4831 or email communications@dcyf.wa.gov.

DCYF PUBLICATION EL_0097 (03-2025)



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES