

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) STREAM



Spring Program Starts June 2024. Apply by May 27, 2024. Maximum enrollment 20 participants.

What is the ECE II Assessment Program – PLA Stream?

The PLA stream is a self-directed assessment program, by which experienced Child Care Assistants working directly with children in a licensed child care centre can earn the classification of Early Childhood Educator (ECE) II.

- PLA participants receive guidance from a content area advisor, as they demonstrate their skills, knowledge, and judgement according to required standards.
- Upon successful completion of the program, the participants earn an ECE II classification level as determined by The Community Child Care Standards Act and Manitoba Regulation 62/86.
- The length of the CBA program stream is approximately 12 to 18 months. The number and date of program intake periods varies per year.
- Assessment programs are different from training programs and do not provide participants with an educational credential.

Who is eligible to participate?

To be an eligible applicant, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- A post-secondary degree or diploma that is related to Early Learning and Child Care, equivalent to two or more years
- Two years of work experience as a Child Care Assistant in a licensed Manitoba facility, working directly with children, at least 20 hours per week
- 60 hours of professional development, current within two years (Required first aid/CPR not included)
- Academic English writing skills and computer literacy skills, including Microsoft Word and email. An English benchmark of seven is recommended
- Centre director/management support and the designation of a peer assessor, currently classified as an ECE II or III, who is able to mentor and work closely with the participant
- Current employment in a Manitoba child care centre, working 20 or more hours per week directly with children, that will continue for the duration of the program

What is required to be a successful participant?

To be successful in the PLA stream, applicants must have:

- Prior knowledge of child development theory
- Strong organization and time management skills
- Strong sense of self-motivation
- Strong reading and academic writing skills (English benchmark of seven)
- A strong commitment to the ELCC profession
- A willingness and ability to invest significant time and energy to the CBA stream process
- A willingness and ability to pay costs related to learning aids, child development textbooks, and materials for a portfolio
- Support from the centre director, board of directors, and/or parent advisory committee in terms of on-site mentorship and assessment
- Ability to stay within regular contact with all members of the CBA participant support team for the duration of the program
- A willingness and ability to participate in continued professional development in the ELCC field
- Access to the internet and a computer, as well as possession of basic computer skills required to complete and submit assignments

What is involved?

- Complete the ECE II Assessment program application (section for PLA) and submit it to ELCC Division.
- Attend two orientation sessions and portfolio development workshops and networking meetings online through a virtual meeting platform.
- Compile a portfolio according to the PLA stream guidelines and competency standards outlining current skills and knowledge, with the guidance of an advisor.
- Make arrangements to be observed working with children, documented by a peer assessor and advisor at the centre.
- Complete assignments related to child development and current best practices.
- Meet target dates and follow the ethical commitments of the program.
- Address all identified learning gaps through a variety of potential methods, including college courses, professional development, or practicum.
- Attend a final assessment meeting\ in person or online through a virtual meeting platform.

For more information and to apply, contact:

Early Learning and Child Care Division

ECE II Assessment Program

Email: cdccertificate@gov.mb.ca

Phone: 204-945-0776

Toll-free: 1-888-213-4754

Website: www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/students_workforce/ece_assessment.html