

Early Intervention Administrative Rule 500 has undergone amendments that were recently posted and effective May 12, 2014. Among the changes are some related to Early Intervention Credentialing requirements.

1) Individuals applying for an EI Specialist Developmental Therapist credential must have a bachelors degree or higher in one of the following areas:

- Early Childhood
- Special Education
- Early Intervention
- Elementary Education
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Special Education: Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Special Education Blind/Partially Sighted
- Child Development

or from an EI approved college/university program that the Department or its designee has determined to be equivalent to one of the above degrees.

Note: A new developmental therapy credential will not be issued to individuals with degrees in Developmental Psychology, or Social Work; or with a bachelors degree or higher and a full specialist credential in the EI Program; or a current license in art, music, recreation, or other type of therapy, rehabilitative or habilitative in nature, in the state where they provide services to Illinois children. Individuals who currently hold a developmental therapy credential under these circumstances will be able to retain their credentials if they do not allow them to lapse for over one year.

**AND**

2) Document at least 2 semester college hours of or 30 clock hours or CEU credit hours of approved educational experiences in each of the EI core knowledge content areas.

1. Development of Young Children, Atypical and Typical
2. Working with Families of Young Children with Disabilities
3. Intervention Strategies for Young Children with Special Needs
4. Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs

**AND**

3) Submit proof of training on the use of a formal global assessment tool.

Changes were also made regarding the Consultation Requirement Either Prior to or During Temporary Credential. In order to qualify for a full credential, providers credentialed under the following EI service categories need to document 120 hours rather than 240 of consultation while providing direct services.

- Clinical Assessment, Counseling and other Therapeutic Services
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Social Services

Note: The 120 hour requirement already applied to Developmental Therapists/Vision, Developmental Therapists/Orientation and Mobility, and Developmental Therapist/Hearing.