

Professional Requirements

DDS and CDE share the responsibility for ensuring that all personnel under California's Early Start Program meet the current qualifications in statute, regulations, and policy.

The following table details the requirements applicable to practice a discipline in California for the positions listed.

Requirements for Positions	
Audiologist	<p>State licensure and national certification in Audiology are required. Examination is conducted by the Speech Pathology and Audiology Examination Committee, Board of Medical Quality Assurance, Department of Consumer Affairs. Eligibility for licensure is based on the following qualifications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Master's degree in audiology from a committee-approved educational institution.
Family Therapist	<p>To practice as a Family Therapist licensure is required through the Board of Behavioral Science Examiners, Department of Consumer Affairs. Eligibility for licensure includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Possession of a Doctor's or Master's degree in marriage, family and child psychology, counseling with an emphasis in marriage, family, and child counseling or social work with an emphasis in clinical social work obtained from an accredited school, college, or university and the appropriate license as required by the discipline. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker can also practice as a family therapist. <p>To practice as a Marriage, Family and Child Counselor licensure is required, as stated above, plus</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Completion of an approved program of no less than 48 semester/72 quarter units to include no less than 12 semester/18 quarter units of course work in the areas of marriage, family, and child counseling and marital and family systems approaches to treatment. 3) Completion of no less than six semester/nine quarter units of supervised practicum within the program. 4) Completion of additional course work to include: two semester/three quarter units in California law and professional ethics for marriage, family and child counselors; seven contact hours of training or course work in human sexuality, and completion of specific instruction in alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency. 5) 3,000 hours of supervised clinical experience, at least 1,500 of which must be completed post-masters.
Infant Development Program Service Provider	<p>Infant development programs are vendored by regional centers. Vendors must meet the following personnel qualifications/standards contained in Title 17 California Code of Regulations, §§ 56710, 56722, 56724 and 56760 - 56774:</p>

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	<p>(1) The director of an infant development program shall possess the following minimum qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A bachelor's degree and minimum of 18 months of experience in the management of a human services delivery system; or (b) Five years of experience in a human services delivery system, including at least two years in a management or supervisory position. <p>(2) The supervisor of an infant development program shall possess the following minimum qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Three years of experience in a human services delivery system, including at least one year in a comparable program or a bachelor's degree in child development, early childhood education, developmental disability education, or a closely related child-focused specialty; and (b) The demonstrated ability to provide staff training, supervision and planning. <p>(3) The vendor/service provider must also maintain written job descriptions and define minimum qualifications for all positions. Direct care staff shall possess the education and experience required in the job description and the ability to perform the functions required in the program design.</p>
Nurse	<p>To practice as a registered nurse, licensure by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs; is required. Requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) successful completion of an approved course of study in an accredited school of nursing including 58 semester units of course work and supervised clinical experience; 2) successful completion of the written Board approved examination; 3) verification of ongoing continuing education for license renewal. <p>To practice as a school nurse, an individual must hold a School Nurse Services Credential. Requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Completion of a B.A. degree from a accredited college or university; 2) Completion of commission-approved school nurse program of 30-45 units of post-graduate work; 3) Completion of 2 years, or equivalent, of full time successful experience as a school nurse. <p>Various levels of preparation are found in nurses providing early intervention services ranging from the generalists (baccalaureate degree) to clinical specialists (Masters or Doctorate).</p>
Nutritionist	<p>California does not have state licensure/registration in order to practice dietetics. However, the California Business and Professions Code identify qualifications for the use of the title "dietitian". Currently, dietitians are registered through the Commission on Dietetic Registration, the credentialing agency for the American Dietetic Association. The dietitian receives the designation of Registered Dietitian. Eligibility for registration includes:</p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A minimum of a B.A. degree from a U.S. regionally accredited college or university; 2) Completion of an ADA approved practical, supervised training in an accredited institution; 3) Successful completion of the CDR national Competency examination, and 4) Completion of ongoing continuing education Requirements for renewal of registration.
Occupational Therapist	<p>California does not have state licensure/registration in the field of occupational therapy. However, the California Business and Professions Code identifies qualifications for the use of the titles of "occupational therapist" and defines qualifications as those prescribed by the regulations of the state department governing reimbursement of such services. Registration is granted through The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA). To become a registered Occupational Therapist (OTR) an individual must have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Graduated from an accredited occupational therapist education program and have successfully completed all therapist level fieldwork required by the educational program. 2) Pass the National Registration Exam administered by the AOTA.
Orientation and Mobility Specialist	<p>Orientation and Mobility Specialists are required to hold a Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential in orientation and mobility is required. Credentials are issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Credentialing is conducted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Requirements include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Completion of a regionally accredited college or university; (2) Completion of a professional preparation program including internship; and (3) Completion of a fifth year of study after the B.A. in an approved California teacher preparation institution.
Primary Care Physicians	<p>General Practitioners are licensure as a Doctor of Medicine by the Board of Quality Medical Assurance; Department of Consumer Affairs is required. The license is called a physician's and surgeon's certificate. To qualify for the certificate, the applicant must have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A diploma issued by an approved medical school; and 2) Successfully completed at least one year of postgraduate training, which includes at least four months of general medicine, in an approved postgraduate training program. <p>Specialist, such as general pediatricians or family physicians , are required to complete three years residencies in pediatrics or family practice in an accredited training program after the receiving the M.D.</p> <p>Board certified pediatricians must have demonstrated competency by completion of the certification examination of the American Board of Pediatrics. Additionally, board certified physicians may acquire additional fellowship training in other sub-specialties.</p>

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Physical Therapy	<p>Licensure in California is required and is conducted by the Division of Allied Health Professions of the Board of Medical Quality Assurance, Department of Consumer Affairs. A licensed physical therapist may use the letters, L.P.T., R.P.T., or P.T.. To be eligible for licensure, the individual must have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) completed a minimum of four years of post secondary education in an accredited institution or institutions. The professional education shall have been full time, from a Committee approved program and the equivalent of not less than 1400 hours.
Psychologist	<p>Various levels of practice and types of roles exist for individuals providing psychological services in the State of California. The predominant types of professionals involved in early intervention services are discussed.</p> <p>To practice as a School Psychologist, an individual must have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Completed a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; 2) Completed at least 60 semester hours in school psychology from an accredited program; 3) possession of a pupil personnel services credential with a school psychology endorsement <p>To practice as a Psychologists, an individual must have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Completed of a doctorate in psychology, in education psychology, or in education with a specialization in counseling psychology or education psychology, or a doctorate deemed equivalent by the committee, from an accredited or approved university, college, professional school, or any other approved educational institution. 2) licensure through the California Board of Medical Quality Assurance, Department of Consumer Affairs. <p>To practice as a Licensed Educational Psychologists, an individual must have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Completed at least a master's degree in psychology, educational psychology, school psychology, or counseling and guidance, or degree deemed equivalent by the board; 2) Completed 60 semester hours of postgraduate work devoted to pupil personnel services or have equivalent experience; and 3) Licensure through the Board of Behavioral Sciences, Department of Consumer Affairs. <p>To practice as a Developmental Psychologist, and individual must have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Possession of at least a master's or doctoral degree in developmental psychology from an accredited college or university.
Social Worker	<p>To practice as a Social Worker, an individual must have a Master's in Social Work (MSW) from a graduate school of social work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. To practice as a School Social Worker, an individual must have completed a Master's Degree</p>

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	<p>in social work and hold a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Credential with a School Social Work Specialization.</p> <p>Eligibility for licensure as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) requires a master's degree in social work (MSW) from an accredited school of social work; completion of 3,200 hours of supervised post-masters clinical experience in not less than 24 months; 7 hours of training in child abuse reporting; 10 hours of training on human sexuality; and 15 hours of training on alcoholism and other chemical substance dependencies.</p>
Speech and Language Pathologist	<p>State licensure and national certification are required and examination is conducted by the Speech Pathology and Audiology Examination Committee, Board of Medical Quality Assurance. Eligibility for licensure is made on the basis of the following qualifications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Masters degree in speech pathology from a committee approved educational institution. (2) Approved clinical experience.
Special Educator/special Education Teachers*	<p>Special education teachers are required to hold a California Special Education Specialist Instruction Credential and a valid California teaching credential. Credentialing is conducted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Requirements include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Completion of a BA from a regionally accredited college or university; (2) Completion of a professional preparation program during a fifth year of study in an approved California teacher preparation institution; (3) Other standards established by the CTC to assure that teachers have sufficient knowledge of subject matter that is the core of the California public school curriculum and experience with non-special education pupils. <p>Special Educators providing services to low incidence populations must also hold the following specialist credentials:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing--Specialist Credential in Deaf/hard of hearing; or (2) Teacher of Visually Handicapped--Specialist Credential in visual handicapped; or (3) Teacher of Orthopedically Handicapped--Specialist Credential in orthopedically handicaps. <p>* Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Credential Effective July 1999, personnel [obtaining a credential] will have to meet the new Standards of Quality and Effectiveness for Education Specialists Credential Programs, including the requirements for Early Childhood Special Education Credentials. Early childhood special education includes the provision of <u>educational</u> services to children from birth through pre-kindergarten who are eligible for early intervention, special education, and/or related services [from a local educational agency] under federal and state laws. Children with a primary [or solely low incidence] disability of deafness or hearing impairment, deaf-blindness, visual impairment including blindness, or</p>

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	<p>orthopedic impairment must be served by a [special education] professional holding the authorization specific to the low incidence disability.</p> <p>Early Childhood Special Education Certificate</p> <p>In addition to these credentials, a certificate program in Early Childhood Special Education will be available for holders of the Education Specialist Instruction Credentials in Mild/Moderate Disabilities and Moderate/Severe Disabilities, to be able to expand the authorization to include birth through Pre Kindergarten. The ECSE Certificate could be completed after Level II requirements for a specialist credential have been met, if desired [not required].</p>

This professional list is not all inclusive. There are many opportunities for those that are Music Therapists, Art Therapists, Behaviorialists, Language Interpreters, and others in related fields. For more information on the vendor requirements visit California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2, Section 54300.

<http://www.dds.ca.gov/Title17/T17SectionTOC.cfm?SubchapterID=16>

To find more information on career opportunities in early intervention that relates to your discipline, contact your local regional center or local education agency.

http://www.dds.ca.gov/EarlyStart/PDF/central_directory2006.pdf