

**Rule 5123-10-05**  
**Early Intervention Program - Developmental Specialist Certification**  
*Effective July 1, 2021*

**1-year certification has 2 tracks:**

	<b>Obtaining Initial Certification</b> (“Initial” means the <b>first time</b> the certification is applied for under the DS certification rule 5123-10-05)	<b>Maintaining Certification</b> (Renewal after initial certification under 5123-10-05)
<p><b>1-Year Certification - Track I</b></p> <p><b>For person holding 1-year Developmental Specialist certification issued prior to new rule who is within 1 year of completing 6 college courses/seminars required for 5-year certification</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-year certification must be in effect</li> <li>• Must be employed as developmental specialist</li> <li>• Must have completed 5 of the 6 required college courses/seminars</li> <li>• Apply for 1-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)</li> </ul>	<p><b>During first year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete 6th college course/seminar</li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)</li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE: 10 DS orientation modules (see page three) are required prior to application for 5 year certification.</b></p>
<p><b>1-Year Certification - Track II</b></p> <p><b>For person:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Holding 1-year Developmental Specialist certification issued prior to new rule who does not qualify for Track I</b></li> <li>• <b>With offer of employment or employed as Developmental Specialist who does not qualify for 5-year certification</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be employed or receive offer of employment as developmental specialist by employer that arranges for and ensures active participation in evidence-based practice coaching</li> <li>• Must meet one of the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Related bachelor's or graduate degree</li> <li>○ Any bachelor's or graduate degree <u>and</u> 2 years paid experience working with children birth through age 5 with disabilities, developmental delays, or diagnosed physical or mental conditions</li> <li>○ Any bachelor's or graduate degree <u>and</u> valid license in related field</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Must have completed 10 Developmental Specialist Orientation modules (listed on page 3 of this document)</li> <li>• Must have completed Department-provided training in Infant and Toddler Development (EI-071)</li> <li>• Apply for 1-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration if applicable)</li> </ul>	<p><b>During first year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start actively participating in evidence-based practice coaching within 6 months</li> <li>• Complete at least 3 college courses or seminars required for 5-year certification including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evaluation and Assessment</li> <li>○ Infant/Toddler Growth and Development</li> <li>○ Individualized Family Service Plan Development, Intervention Planning, and Service Delivery</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>During second year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete 12 months of evidence-based practice coaching</li> <li>• Complete remaining college courses/seminars</li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)</li> </ul>

**5-year certification has 3 tracks:**

	<p align="center"><b>Obtaining Certification</b>                      (“Initial” means the <b>first time</b> the certification is applied for under the DS certification rule 5123-10-05)</p>	<p align="center"><b>Maintaining Certification</b>                      (Renewal after initial certification under 5123-10-05)</p>
<p><b>5-Year Certification - Track I</b></p> <p><b>For person holding 5-year or 10-year Developmental Specialist or Early Intervention Supervisor certification issued prior to new rule</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-year or 10-year certification must be in effect</li> <li>• Must have met professional development requirements to renew existing 5-year or 10-year certification</li> <li>• Must have completed 10 Developmental Specialist Orientation modules (listed on page 3 of this document)</li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)</li> </ul>	<p><b>To renew first time</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Principles of Special Instruction</li> <li>• Meet one of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete 50 hours of professional development <u>and</u> work at least 4,000 hours as a developmental specialist</li> <li>○ Complete 80 hours of professional development</li> </ul>                             (Principles of Special Instruction may be counted toward professional development)                         </li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)</li> </ul> <p><b>To renew thereafter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet one of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete 50 hours of professional development <u>and</u> work at least 4,000 hours as a developmental specialist</li> <li>○ Complete 80 hours of professional development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)</li> </ul>
<p><b>5-Year Certification - Track II</b></p> <p><b>For person holding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Related degree; or</b></li> <li>• <b>Any degree with 2 years of related experience; or</b></li> <li>• <b>Any degree with related license</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must meet one of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Related bachelor's or graduate degree</li> <li>○ Any bachelor's or graduate degree <u>and</u> 2 years paid experience working with children birth through age 5 with disabilities, developmental delays, or diagnosed physical or mental conditions</li> <li>○ Any bachelor's or graduate degree <u>and</u> valid license in related field</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Must have completed 10 Developmental Specialist Orientation modules (listed on page 3 of this document)</li> <li>• Must have completed college course/seminar in each of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evaluation and Assessment</li> <li>○ Infant/Toddler Growth and Development</li> <li>○ Individualized Family Service Plan Development, Intervention Planning, and Service Delivery</li> <li>○ Disabilities and Risk Factors From Birth</li> <li>○ Family-Centered Services and Supports</li> <li>○ Team Collaboration</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification</li> </ul>	<p><b>To renew first time:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Principles of Special Instruction</li> <li>• Meet one of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete 50 hours of professional development <u>and</u> work at least 4,000 hours as a developmental specialist</li> <li>○ Complete 80 hours of professional development</li> </ul>                             (Principles of Special Instruction may be counted toward professional development)                         </li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)</li> </ul> <p><b>To renew thereafter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet one of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete 50 hours of professional development <u>and</u> work at least 4,000 hours as a developmental specialist</li> <li>○ Complete 80 hours of professional development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)</li> </ul>

	<b>Obtaining Certification</b> (“Initial” means the <b>first time</b> the certification is applied for under the DS certification rule 5123-10-05)	<b>Maintaining Certification</b> (Renewal after initial certification under 5123-10-05)
<b>5-Year Certification - Track III</b>  <b>For person holding credential issued by another state or U.S. territory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have met state-approved or recognized certification, licensure, registration, or other comparable requirements to provide special instruction via an early intervention individualized family service plan in a state other than Ohio or a U.S. territory within the past 6 months</li> <li>• Must have completed 10 Developmental Specialist Orientation modules (listed below)</li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification</li> </ul>	<b>To renew first time:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Principles of Special Instruction</li> <li>• Meet one of the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete 50 hours of professional development <u>and</u> work at least 4,000 hours as a developmental specialist</li> <li>○ Complete 80 hours of professional development</li> </ul>               (Principles of Special Instruction may be counted toward professional development)             </li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)</li> </ul> <b>To renew thereafter:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet one of the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complete 50 hours of professional development <u>and</u> work at least 4,000 hours as a developmental specialist</li> <li>○ Complete 80 hours of professional development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)</li> </ul>

**Note:** The renewal window opens 90 days from the expiration of certification. Submission of application 30 -90 days before expiration date is advised. Applications received fewer than 10 business days from certification expiration date **may not** be processed prior to expiration. No developmental specialist may provide early intervention services without a valid certification.

**Developmental Specialist Orientation modules:**

1. Introduction to Early Intervention Services (EI-064)
2. Mission and Key Principles of Early Intervention (EI-068)
3. Family-Centered Early Intervention Practices (EI-069)
4. Individualized Family Service Plan Process (EI-076)
5. Mandated Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect (EI-067)
6. Parent Rights and Procedural Safeguards in Early Intervention (EI-066)
7. Primary Service Provider Approach to Teaming in Early Intervention (EI-074)
8. Natural Learning Environment Practices (EI-075)
9. Assessment Practices (EI-117)
10. Coaching in Early Intervention (EI-100)