Rule 5180:8-1-05

Early Intervention Program - Developmental Specialist Certification

Effective October 15, 2026

1-Year Certification

	Obtaining Initial Certification ("Initial" means the first time the certification is applied for under the DS certification rule)	**Maintaining Certification** (Renewal after initial certification)

1-Year Certification
 	
For person:
• Holding 1-year Developmental Specialist certification issued prior to new rule
• Receiving offer of employment or employed as Developmental Specialist who does not qualify for 5-year certification
	• 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
	
	• Must meet one of the following:
	  ○ Related bachelor's or graduate degree
	  ○ Any bachelor's or graduate degree and 2 years verified full-time (or equivalent part-time) paid experience working with children birth through age 5 with disabilities, developmental delays, or diagnosed physical or mental conditions
	  ○ Any bachelor's or graduate degree and valid license in related field
	
	• Must have completed all Developmental Specialist Orientation modules (listed on page 3 of this document)
	
	• Must have completed Department-provided training in Infant and Toddler Development (EI-071)
	
	• Apply for 1-year certification
		During first year
		
		• Start actively participating in evidence-based practice coaching within 3 months
		
		• Complete at least 3 college courses or state-approved 30 hour seminars required for 5-year certification including:
		  ○ Infant/Toddler Growth and Development (E01)
		  ○ Evaluation and Assessment (E04)
		  ○ Individualized Family Service Plan Development, Intervention Planning, and Service Delivery (E06)
		
		During second year
		
		• Complete 9 months of evidence-based practice coaching
		
		• Complete remaining college courses/seminars
		  ○ Disabilities and Risk Factors from Birth (E02)
		  ○ Family-Centered Services and Supports (E03)
		  ○ Teaming and Collaboration in EI (E05)
		
		• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)

5-Year Certification – Track I

	Obtaining Certification ("Initial" means the first time the certification is applied for under the DS certification rule)	**Maintaining Certification** (Renewal after initial certification)

5-Year Certification – Track I
 	
For person holding:
• Related degree; or
• Any degree with 2 years of related experience; or
• Any degree with related license
	• Must meet one of the following:
	  ○ Related bachelor's or graduate degree
	  ○ Any bachelor's or graduate degree and 2 years verified full-time (or equivalent part-time) paid experience working with children birth through age 5 with disabilities, developmental delays, or diagnosed physical or mental conditions
	  ○ Any bachelor's or graduate degree and valid license in related field
	
	• Must have completed all Developmental Specialist Orientation modules (listed on page 3 of this document)
	
	• Must have completed college course/seminar in all of the following:
	  ○ Evaluation and Assessment (E04)
	  ○ Infant/Toddler Growth and Development (E01)
	  ○ Individualized Family Service Plan Development, Intervention Planning, and Service Delivery (E06)
	  ○ Disabilities and Risk Factors from Birth (E02)
	  ○ Family-Centered Services and Supports (E05)
	  ○ Teaming and Collaboration in EI (E06)
	
	• Apply for 5-year certification
		To renew first time:
		
		• Meet one of the following:
		  ○ Complete 50 hours of professional development and work at least 4,000 hours total conducting DS roles and responsibilities as defined in rule 5180:8-01-05
		  ○ Complete 80 hours of professional development
		
		• Complete Principles of Special Instruction (POSI may be counted toward professional development)
		
		• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)
		
		To renew thereafter:
		
		• Meet one of the following:
		  ○ Complete 50 hours of professional development and work at least 4,000 hours total conducting DS roles and responsibilities as defined in rule 5180:8-01-05
		  ○ Complete 80 hours of professional development
		
		• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)

5-Year Certification – Track II

	Obtaining Certification ("Initial" means the first time the certification is applied for under the DS certification rule)	**Maintaining Certification** (Renewal after initial certification)

5-Year Certification - Track II
 	
For person holding credential issued by another state or U.S. territory
	• 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
	
	• Must have completed all Developmental Specialist Orientation modules (listed below)
	
	• Apply for 5-year certification
		To renew first time:
		
		• Meet one of the following:
		  ○ Complete 50 hours of professional development and work at least 4,000 hours total conducting DS roles and responsibilities as defined in rule 5180:8-01-05
		  ○ Complete 80 hours of professional development
		
		• Complete Principles of Special Instruction (POSI may be counted toward professional development)
		
		• Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)
		
		To renew thereafter:
		
		• Meet one of the following:
		  ○ Complete 50 hours of professional development and work at least 4,000 hours total conducting DS roles and responsibilities as defined in rule 5180:8-01-05
		  ○ Complete 80 hours of professional development
		
		Apply for 5-year certification (30-90 days prior to expiration)

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

Developmental Specialist Application Checklists

1 Year Initial DS Certification Application Checklist
1 Year Renewal DS Certification Application Checklist
5 Year Initial DS Certification Application Checklist
5 Year Renewal DS Certification Application Checklist