

The Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential



What is the Connecticut Parenting Educator Credential?

- Designed by Parenting Educators and Parents – led by CT-PEN in partnership with other stakeholders in Connecticut.
- It's based on a set of competencies and core areas of knowledge needed to best enhance parents' ability to rear caring, competent and healthy children.
- It seeks to provide a voluntary system of credentialing with five levels of proficiency

Having a credential acknowledges a Parenting Educator's competency in the following core areas:

- National Extension Parent Education Framework (NEPEF)
 - Priority practices for parents (model for parenting)
 - Basis of parenting educator skills (professional practices)
- CT-PEN Parenting Educator's Code of Ethics
- Training in at least one recognized research-based Parenting Educator Curriculum
 - Parents-as-Teachers
 - Building Family Futures
 - Strengthening Families
- 12 Credits (or equivalent)
 - Lifespan/Human Development
 - Family Systems
 - Group Process and Dynamics
 - Adult Learning Theory and Methods

What are the 5 levels of proficiency?

- **Provisional** – designed to bring people into the profession (Expires in 4yrs)
 - H.S. Diploma (or GED), trained in one research-based parenting education curriculum and one year supervised experience as a parenting educator.
- **Level 1 Parenting Credential** (Valid for 3 years)
 - Same as above – plus 12 credits (or equivalent): Lifespan/Human Development, Family Systems, Group Process/Dynamics, and Adult Learning.
- **Level 2 Parenting Credential** - Requires Associate Degree (Valid for 3 years)
 - Same as Level 1 – one year supervised experience if AA/AS degree is in a related field. Two years supervised experience if in unrelated field.
- **Level 3 Parenting Credential** - Requires Bachelor's Degree (Valid for 3 years)
 - Same as Level 2 – two years supervised experience if BA/BS degree is in a related field. Four years experience if in unrelated field.
- **Level 4 Parenting Credential** – Requires Master's Degree or higher (Valid 3years)
 - Same as Level 3 - two years supervised experience if BA/BS degree is in a related field. Four years experience if in unrelated field.

Why is it important to have a credential?

- Increases one's knowledge, understanding and skill base on all aspects of parenting education
- It keeps people current and up-to-date in this ever-changing and growing field.
- Research tells us that qualifications are directly tied to service quality.
- Gives students the opportunity to make connections with and learn from other professionals in the field.
- Elevates one's status as a professional in this field and increases one's opportunities for professional growth and advancement.

What does it cost?

- First-time Application Fee: \$120.00
 - Includes Application fee is \$75.00
 - Required Non-Credit Online Course: \$45.00
 - Fundamentals of Parenting Education
- Credential Fee based on Level:
 - Provisional \$ 50.00 (non-renewable)
 - All other levels (1-4) \$100.00
- Renewal Fee: \$75.00 (every three years)

Steps to Obtaining my Credential?

- Be a current membership in CT-PEN
- Complete Application and send with fee to Charter Oak
 - Have identified required 12 credits or equivalent (levels 1-4)
 - Have identified completion of at least one parenting education curriculum
- Upon receipt of Application you will be enrolled in the next session of the required five-week self-paced non-credit online course, *Fundamentals of Parenting Education*. Send final assignment to Charter Oak upon completion of course.
- Request all Official Transcripts sent to Charter Oak
- Request Letter(s) verifying experience to Charter Oak
- Credential Application Complete!!



CT Parenting Educator Credential



Preparing Professionals in Parenting
Education.