

# Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) STREAM



## What is the ECE II Assessment Program – PLA Stream?

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The PLA stream is a self-directed assessment program, by which experienced Child Care Assistants working directly with children in a licensed child care centre can earn the classification of Early Childhood Educator (ECE) II.

- PLA participants receive guidance from a content area advisor, as they demonstrate their skills, knowledge, and judgement according to required standards.
- Upon successful completion of the program, the participants earn an ECE II classification level as determined by The Community Child Care Standards Act and Manitoba Regulation 62/86.
- The length of the CBA program stream is approximately 12 to 18 months. The number and date of program intake periods varies per year.
- Assessment programs are different from training programs and do not provide participants with an educational credential.

## Who is eligible to participate?

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To be an eligible applicant, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- A post-secondary degree or diploma that is related to Early Learning and Child Care, equivalent to two or more years
- Two years of work experience as a Child Care Assistant in a licensed Manitoba facility, working directly with children, at least 20 hours per week
- 60 hours of professional development, current within two years (Required first aid/CPR not included)
- Academic English writing skills and computer literacy skills, including Microsoft Word and email. An English benchmark of seven is recommended
- Centre director/management support and the designation of a peer assessor, currently classified as an ECE II or III, who is able to mentor and work closely with the participant
- Current employment in a Manitoba child care centre, working 20 or more hours per week directly with children, that will continue for the duration of the program

## What is required to be a successful participant?

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To be successful in the PLA stream, applicants must have:

- Prior knowledge of child development theory
- Strong organization and time management skills
- Strong sense of self-motivation
- Strong reading and academic writing skills (English benchmark of seven)
- A strong commitment to the ELCC profession
- A willingness and ability to invest significant time and energy to the CBA stream process
- A willingness and ability to pay costs related to learning aids, child development textbooks, and materials for a portfolio
- Support from the centre director, board of directors, and/or parent advisory committee in terms of on-site mentorship and assessment
- Ability to stay within regular contact with all members of the CBA participant support team for the duration of the program
- A willingness and ability to participate in continued professional development in the ELCC field
- Access to the internet and a computer, as well as possession of basic computer skills required to complete and submit assignments

## What is involved?

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- Complete the ECE II Assessment program application (section for PLA) and submit it to ELCC Division.
- Attend two orientation sessions and portfolio development workshops and networking meetings online through a virtual meeting platform.
- Compile a portfolio according to the PLA stream guidelines and competency standards outlining current skills and knowledge, with the guidance of an advisor.
- Make arrangements to be observed working with children, documented by a peer assessor and advisor at the centre.
- Complete assignments related to child development and current best practices.
- Meet target dates and follow the ethical commitments of the program.
- Address all identified learning gaps through a variety of potential methods, including college courses, professional development, or practicum.
- Attend a final assessment meeting\ in person or online through a virtual meeting platform.

### **For more information and to apply, contact:**

Early Learning and Child Care Division

ECE II Assessment Program

Email: [cdccertificate@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdccertificate@gov.mb.ca)

Phone: 204-945-0776

Toll-free: 1-888-213-4754

Website: [www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/students\\_workforce/ece\\_assessment.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/students_workforce/ece_assessment.html)