

Appendix 1: Terms and Abbreviations

ACCA (Alberta Child Care Association) is the former name of the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta. Although the name change was formalized in 2016, AECEA is still referred to as ACCA on some of its partner’s websites.

AECEA—pronounced “A-C”—is the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta. AECEA was formerly known as the Alberta Child Care Association (ACCA), and before that, as the Alberta Child Care Network Association (ACCNA).

Children’s Services refers to Alberta’s Ministry of Children’s Services in its current and previous iterations, including Alberta Human Services and Alberta Children and Family Services.

“Early childhood”—as used in this document—refers to the period from birth to the age of 12.* This is the age group served by certified early childhood educators who work in the regulated sector of Alberta’s child care system, which includes licensed day care, preschool and out-of-school care programs and approved family day homes.

Early childhood educators who work in licensed or regulated programs in Alberta must have a valid certificate. The certificated segment of the workforce, as defined in Alberta’s Child Care Regulation, includes the following:

- **child development supervisors**, who have at least a two-year diploma or equivalent education
- **child development workers**, who have at least a one-year certificate or equivalent education

* In the literature, early childhood is often defined as the period from birth to the age of five. Canada’s Council of Ministers of Education applies the term “early learning” to programs for children from birth to the age of eight.

- and **child development assistants**, who have completed an approved fifty-plus-hour course or equivalent education

Early childhood educators who are represented by AECEA include the following:

- preschool, day care and out-of-school care program staff
- program directors
- family day home providers

Early learning and child care describes the work of early childhood educators. In the literature, this term is interchangeable with “early childhood education,” “early childhood education and care,” “early childhood education and child care” and “early childhood development and education.”