



**Approved changes to the VT Early Childhood Career Ladder
Affecting Technical Center students in Human Services Programs**

At the January 23, 2015 meeting of the statewide Professional Preparation Development Committee (Northern Lights advisory committee), they approved the following change in the [Early Childhood Career Ladder](#), effectively immediately. This change affects *students who work in licensed early childhood programs, while in high school, as part of their technical center – human services (early childhood) experience component*. Please contact Northern Lights staff if you have any questions about this change in the Career Ladder.

Approved change affecting Technical Center students:

Allow high school graduates to who have completed VT Technical Center human service/ early childhood programs to use their supervised and *documented experience with children* in regulated early education programs, *to count towards meeting the Level I (or higher) Career Ladder certificate experience requirement*.

Currently Level I Career Ladder requires one year of full or part time experience in a regulated program with children ages birth to eight.

Three requirements are part of the education criteria to achieve Level I of the Early Childhood Career Ladder, These may be completed at any time, including during the Technical Center program. With verifiable documentation, they will be recognized by Northern Lights as part of an application for a Level I Early Childhood Career Ladder certificate.

These are:

- Basic Specialized Care: a 6 hour is workshop that includes instruction by a DCF representative on mandated reporting practices and procedures
- Introduction to Program Licensing workshop (1.5-2 hours) includes instruction by a Child Development Division Licensing field specialist on child care program regulations
- Formal, reflective observation of the practitioner (student) working with children. The Northern Lights website Early Childhood Career Ladder page provides [Guidance and documentation requirements](#) for this observation.

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