



Ozarka College

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Two Kids Academy Staff Awarded Cda's

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Amanda Fuller and Kelly Graham of the Ozarka College Kids Academy (OKA) in Melbourne have been awarded Child Development Associate (CDA) Credentials in recognition of outstanding work with young children. Fuller currently teaches the four and five-year-old class, while Graham teaches the three-year-old class at the Kids Academy.



The credential was awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C., which represents the early childhood profession. CDA is the only major national effort to improve childcare by evaluating and recognizing the skills of individuals providing care. The first credential was awarded 25 years ago and now 46 states plus the District of Columbia include CDA in the childcare licensing requirements.

Parents today who use childcare are especially concerned about their children's welfare. With this in mind, as part of the CDA assessment process, every candidate for the CDA credential is observed working with young children or families by an early childhood professional. In addition, the Candidate must demonstrate the ability to work with families to develop children's physical and intellectual capabilities in a safe and healthy learning environment.

The CDA credential is having a positive effect on the quality of childcare. Its impact is evident in center-based care and home visitor programs as well as family childcare, the most common form of care for children under 5 years old.

Child care staff and parents wanting information on CDA can contact Ozarka College at (870) 368-7371 or the Council for Professional Recognition at (800) 424-4310. For more information on Ozarka Kids Academy, please contact Amy Pinkston at (870) 368-7868.

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