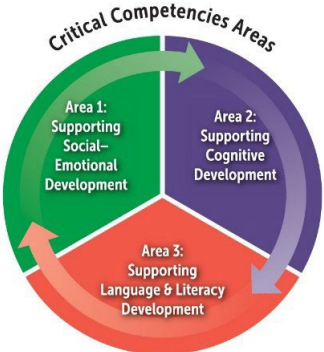# ZERO TO THREE Certified Trainer: *Critical Competencies*
Certification Criteria and Application Overview

ZERO TO THREE | LEARN
Critical Competencies

There are two stages of ZERO TO THREE Trainer Certifications: Stage 1. Provisional Trainer; and Stage 2. Certified Trainer. ZERO TO THREE digital Membership is included in both stages of certification. This overview summarizes the ZERO TO THREE Certified Trainer: *Critical Competencies* timeframe, criteria, and evidence options by certification stage. This page outlines the Provisional Trainer information; page 2 outlines the Certified Trainer information. Please contact trainercertification@zerotothree.org for additional information.

Stage 1. PROVISIONAL TRAINER	Timeframe: valid for 1 year; candidates document meeting full Certification criteria within this provisional year
Step 1: You must have an active ZERO TO THREE profile. Create or confirm your learner profile on ZERO TO THREE|Learn.	

Step 2: Complete the Provisional Trainer certification application for *Critical Competencies*. Submit the application on ZERO TO THREE|Learn.

Applicant Criteria *(What are the requirements to become certified?)*	Application Evidence Options *(What evidence does the application require?)*

✓ Be a current approved early childhood trainer in your home state or country **OR** meet specified standards as an adult educator	*Applicants provide at least 1 of the following evidence options as part of the trainer certification application process*
	
	Early Childhood trainer: A copy of an official certificate, designation letter, or other written designation of approved early childhood trainer or adult educator status awarded by your state or country professional development system, higher education institution, or other appropriate governance entity
	–OR–
	Adult educator: A current resume noting the following evidence:
	• A minimum of a bachelor's degree in early childhood or a related field; **AND**
	• At least three years of experience as an adult educator; **AND**
	• Active participation in professional activities through at least 1 of the following options:
	    ○ Membership in an early childhood focused professional organization like ZERO TO THREE, or
	    ○ Participation in a community, state, or national initiative related to early childhood, or
	    ○ Evidence of ongoing professional development (e.g., an organized professional learning community), or
	    ○ Participation in at least 1 state, regional, or national early childhood development related conference

✓ Successfully complete the *ZERO TO THREE Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators™* Training-of-Trainer (ToT) Course or all 3 Micro-ToT Courses: • Attend all course/micro-course sessions • Complete the online course/micro-courses • Complete the online Reflection Tool • Pass the knowledge assessments with at least an 80% score within 14 calendar days of the final course/micro-course session	*Applicants upload the following documentation:* • Certificate of attendance for the ToT Course or Badges for all 3 Micro-Courses ***ZERO TO THREE will verify the following evidence for applicants; DO NOT submit documentation for these criteria*** • Verified completion of the online course or micro-courses within specified timeframe • Verified completion of the Reflection Tool within specified timeframe • Verified passing scores on knowledge assessment(s) within specified timeframe
✓ Review and agree to uphold the ZERO TO THREE Code of Practice, Values and Ethics Statement, and Trainer Agreement	*Applicants must click the "Agree" button* • Sign the ZERO TO THREE Code of Practice, Values and Ethics Statement, and Trainer Agreement by clicking the "Agree" button in the application

Updated July 2022

Stage 2. CERTIFIED TRAINER	Timeframe: valid for 1 year; candidates document and maintain certification annually

Step 1: Confirm you are a current Provisional or Certified Trainer: *Critical Competencies* on ZERO TO THREE | Learn.

Step 2: Complete the ZERO TO THREE Trainer Certification renewal process. Submit the renewal application and pay $99.00 USD application and processing fee on ZERO TO THREE | Learn. *Annual fee includes ZERO TO THREE digital Membership for 1 year.*

Applicant Criteria *(What are the requirements to become certified?)*	Application Evidence Options *(What evidence does the application require?)*
✓ Be a current approved early childhood trainer in your home state or country **OR** meet specified standards as an adult educator	*Applicants update or provide additional evidence of at least 1 of the following options as part of the trainer renewal process:* ● Current approved trainer status in your home state or country *–OR–* ● That they meet specified standards as an adult educator (see examples of evidence on page 1)

✓ Successfully deliver all modules in at least 1 of the *3 Critical Competencies* areas since last certification award date
 	
Critical Competencies Areas
Area 1: Supporting Social–Emotional Development
Area 2: Supporting Cognitive Development
Area 3: Supporting Language & Literacy Development
	Please Note: **All evidence** for meeting this criterion **must** contain the name of training, date(s) of delivery, location, and trainer name.
	
	Applicants upload the following evidence as part of the trainer renewal process:
	● Approved training event record(s) **OR** training agenda(s); **AND**
	● A personal reflection on and with at least 1 of the following evidence options:
	  ○ A summary of your training participants' evaluations
	  ○ A letter of recommendation from a peer or mentor trainer, or other formal observer of your *Critical Competencies* training delivery; letter must be dated within the last year and include the observer's contact information
	  ○ Brief video clip of a *Critical Competencies* training delivered since last certification award date with a written or video summary
	  ○ Other trainer requested documentation options pre-approved by ZERO TO THREE

✓ Participate in at least 1 ZERO TO THREE *Critical Competencies* trainer support offering since last certification award date	***ZERO TO THREE will verify this evidence for applicants; DO NOT submit documentation for this criterion*** ● Verified attendance in a ZERO TO THREE trainer support offering since last certification award date
✓ Participate in at least 5 clock hours of professional development in the areas of social-emotional, cognitive, or language and literacy development for infants and toddlers; teaching infants and toddlers; or other areas specifically related to the *Critical Competencies* model since last certification award date	*Applicants upload training certificates or transcripts as part of the trainer renewal process:* ● At least 5 clock hours of professional development in ZERO TO THREE approved areas since last certification award date ○ Total clock hours may include ZERO TO THREE trainer support offerings or membership events
✓ Review and agree to continue upholding the ZERO TO THREE Code of Practice, Values and Ethics Statement, and Trainer Agreement	*Applicants must click the "Agree" button* ● Sign the ZERO TO THREE Code of Practice, Values and Ethics Statement, and Trainer Agreement by clicking the "Agree" button in the application