



“ When viewed across the diversity of practice settings, child and youth care is the largest human service profession in the world. ”

Dale Curry, Ph.D.
Kent State University

A commitment to quality

Grounded in a body of knowledge and skills, certification is a tangible display of commitment to quality care for young people and families.

DOMAINS

PROFESSIONALISM

SUB DOMAINS

Awareness of the profession, professional development and behavior, personal development and self care, professional ethics, awareness of laws and regulations, advocacy

CULTURAL AND HUMAN DIVERSITY

Personal awareness and inquiry, integration of cultural awareness in developing respectful and effective relationships and communication, integration of cultural awareness in applying developmental practice methods

APPLIED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Contextual-developmental assessment, sensitivity to contextual development in relationships and communication, practice methods that are sensitive to development and context, access resources that support healthy development

RELATIONSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

Interpersonal communication, relationship development, family communication, teamwork and professional communication skills

DEVELOPMENTAL PRACTICE METHODS

Genuine relationships, health and safety, intervention planning, environmental design and maintenance, program and activity planning, activities of daily living, group process, counseling, behavioral guidance, family and caregiver engagement, community engagement

Mattingly, M., Stuart, C. & VanderVen, K. (2010). *Competencies for professional child and youth work practitioners*. Milwaukee, WI: Association for Child and Youth Care Practice.

A comprehensive assessment

The certification process provides individuals with a comprehensive assessment of their professional experience and skills.

1: WRITTEN EXAM

Based on developmental and ecological theory, the exam assesses the ability to apply situational judgment to 75 multiple choice questions from case examples across a variety of practice settings.

The 3 hour exam is available at over 230 proctored sites. Advance registration is required at least 72 hours prior to exam.

\$135 exam fee

2: APPLICATION

The application guides candidates in assimilating work history, education, association membership, training, and commitment to ethical practice. Supporting documentation is reviewed to confirm education and training history.

Candidates have 6 months from the date of testing to complete parts 2 through 5. A 6 month extension may be requested (\$20 administrative fee). After twelve months, retesting is required.

3: PEER REFERENCES

Two written peer references are reviewed and the reference providers are asked to confirm the candidate demonstrates professional character, ethics, and behavior on a consistent basis.

\$100 processing fee

4: SUPERVISOR ASSESSMENT

A written assessment by a current or former supervisor examines the consistency in which the candidate demonstrates 38 specific areas of knowledge and skills on the job.

5: PORTFOLIO

Candidates demonstrate their professional practice through a series of eight reflective essays and activities. Each portfolio is peer reviewed before certification is granted.

CYC-P designation awarded

RENEWAL

Successful candidates retain their certification through demonstration of 30 hours of continuing education and professional engagement every two years.

\$50 renewal every two years

Certification contributes to the safety and quality care of children, youth, and families.

It makes business sense for organizations interested in providing high quality services to invest in certification as a part of the professional development of care providers.

In a 2013 study on the impact of certification, participants reported the following benefits of being certified:

- Establishes a baseline of competence
- Increases motivation and confidence
- Promotes reflective practice
- Demonstrates commitment to child and youth care as a career

Highlights of key research findings

Predictive of higher performance

Certified workers are 2.7 times more likely to be high performing practitioners than uncertified (Curry et al., 2013). The exam itself is predictive of child and youth worker competence/performance on the job across practice settings (Curry et al., 2009).

The major components of CYCCB certification (education, experience, passing score on the exam, completion of certification including the portfolio) are each predictive of CYW performance. Each component progressively predicts performance – an indication of the incremental validity of the certification process (Curry et al., 2013).

Content validity of certification process

The certification process assesses competencies in the Competencies for Professional Child and Youth Work Practitioners, which was developed through a meta-analysis of 87 sets of competencies across North America (Mattingly, Stuart, & VanderVen, 2002, 2010).

To ensure content validity, these competencies guided the development of each assessment component (Curry et al., 2009; Eckles et al., 2009).

Internal reliability and face validity of exam

The exam has a high degree of internal reliability: Cronbach's alpha = .90 and appears to assess one general construct of professional CYW judgment (Curry et al., 2013; Curry et al., 2009; CYCCB 2011).

The exam has a high degree of face validity across practice settings. For example, 90% of practitioners agree that the exam accurately assesses important aspects of CYW and 90% agree that the exam's case examples provide realistic samples of CYW (Curry, et al., 2009).

LEADERSHIP

Strategic leadership is provided by a volunteer board of directors who serve two year terms and are elected by the body of certified practitioners.

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