

# Guidance on Advanced Specialized Training Criteria and Requirements for Specialized Child Care Programs

**Specialized child care programs play a significant role in supporting the individualized needs of the children and families they work with every day.**

As the registrant or program director for an approved Specialized Child Care (SCC) program, you are required to complete the Basic Specialized Care (BSC) training prior to signing the Specialized Child Care Agreement, and once approved continue to take six hours of Advanced Specialized Care (ASC) training annually. Beginning in September 2017, the ASC training hours you complete can count as part of your required professional development hours needed to maintain compliance with child care licensing regulations. All professional development hours are first verified and approved by Northern Lights staff before they are entered into the Bright Futures Information System (BFIS). They will be reviewed annually by the Child Development Division.

Advanced Specialized Care (ASC) trainings are the annual, ongoing training requirement after attending Basic Specialized Care (BSC) training. These trainings or coursework support professionals in enhancing their skills and knowledge to meet the unique needs of children and their families. The criteria for ASC training are broad/comprehensive but should focus on one or more of the following topics: recognizing, addressing, and including children with special health or developmental needs; atypical and challenging behaviors; behavior and trauma; family engagement; professional teams; and self-care for professionals.

**Criteria for approving Advanced Specialized Care training or coursework:**

- a) A minimum of ~~two~~ hours long Trainings that are one hour are now accepted as of June 2024
- b) Clearly falls within one of categories listed below
- c) Entered and verified in your Bright Futures Information System (BFIS) Quality & Credential Account by CCV/the Northern Lights Career Development Center (Northern Lights)

The Bright Futures Information System (BFIS) Course Calendar <http://www.brightfutures.vermont.gov> identifies approved ASC trainings by including (ASC) at the end of the title of the training. Find ASC training either by entering ASC in the title line and search by ‘contains,’ or select Advanced Specialized Care in the Knowledge Areas search bar and click submit, to filter all training in that date range that meets this criteria. To complete the requirements, all ASC training must be verified by Northern Lights and documented in BFIS Quality and Credential accounts.

The table below lists *examples* of different training topics to guide you in identifying Advanced Specialized Care training. If you are not sure if a training will meet the ASC criteria, please contact Northern Lights Career Development Center to confirm. **This is not a complete list.**

Recognizing, Addressing and Including Children with differences	Understanding Behavior and the Impact of Trauma	Caregiving Together with families and Building Relationships	Professional Team Building and Self-Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced child development and brain development</li> <li>• Temperament and resilience</li> <li>• Children with developmental delays, sensory deficits and/or learning differences (such as ADHD, autism, Down Syndrome, deafness etc.)</li> <li>• Children with special health needs including medical plans</li> <li>• Designing inclusive learning environments and individualized curricula</li> <li>• Early intervention, special education (to grade 5)</li> <li>• Child Screenings, assessments, and evaluations</li> <li>• Sign Language</li> <li>• Strategies and interventions for challenging behaviors</li> </ul> <p>Sample Curricula: VT Starts with the ARTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attachment, Self-regulation, supporting and improving positive behaviors</li> <li>• Impact of trauma</li> <li>• Social and emotional development Infants through school age children</li> <li>• Early child mental health in the curricula</li> <li>• Keeping children safe from bullying</li> <li>• Addressing violence in young children’s play</li> <li>• Co-regulation among children and their care takers</li> </ul> <p>Sample Curricula: ARC, CSEFEL (Pyramid model), PBIS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and use One Plan/IEP</li> <li>• Family engagement and productive relationships with families</li> <li>• Influence of culture on caregiving and cultural competence</li> <li>• Impact of family poverty, substance abuse, violence, sexual abuse, or incarceration on children and families</li> </ul> <p>Sample Curricula: Touchpoints, PCAN, Strengthening Families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing behavior plans, inclusion policies and procedures related to meeting the special needs and inclusion of children, their families, and those who work with them</li> <li>• Team development: roles and effective practices</li> <li>• Reflective practice and supervision</li> <li>• Learning about self-care strategies for professionals</li> <li>• Recognizing and addressing vicarious trauma</li> </ul>