

# THE DEPARTMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION

## Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist (ITDS) Program

Thank you for your interest in the Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist (ITDS) certificate program courses at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). The state of Florida has identified the ITDS certificate as a qualifying credential for individuals to work with infants and toddlers in early intervention programs. The certificate program is administered in partnership with several state universities (including FAU) and Department of Health (DOH).

### Overview of the FAU Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist Program

There are several routes to earning an ITDS certificate depending on your current level of educational preparation. These options are:

1. **Option 1:** For professionals who already possess a Bachelor's or Master's Degree in an unrelated field, with no additional educational / therapeutic certification, and with no work experience in early intervention.
2. **Option 2:** For professionals who already possess a Bachelor's Degree in early childhood or early childhood / special education, child and family development, family life specialist, communication sciences, psychology or social work (or equivalent degree based on transcript review), and who have additional certification (see list below) and a minimum of 1 year work experience in early intervention.
3. **Option 3:** For professionals who already possess a Master's degree in early childhood or early childhood / special education, child and family development, family life specialist, communication sciences, psychology or social work (or equivalent degree based on transcript review), and who have a minimum of 1 year work experience in early intervention.

#### Option 1

You can meet the competencies for the ITDS certificate by completing the following courses at FAU (all courses are offered on-line via distance learning):

EEX 5015 Survey and Assessment in Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education (Spring)  
EEX 5755 Families and Community Resources in Early Childhood ESE (Summer)  
EEX 5017 Atypical Development in Early Childhood ESE (Summer)  
EEX 6707 Early Intervention Services (Fall)

See course descriptions [here](#)

These courses can be taken as a non-degree seeking student (you will need to apply to FAU as a "non-degree seeking student") or they may be integrated into a Master's Degree program in the Department of Exceptional Student Education (you will need to apply to FAU as a "degree seeking student / graduate student"). Information about applying as a degree or non-degree seeking student at FAU can be found at: [www.fau.edu/graduate/apply.php](http://www.fau.edu/graduate/apply.php). Information regarding tuition and fees can be found at: [http://www.fau.edu/controller/student\\_information/tuition\\_breakdown.php](http://www.fau.edu/controller/student_information/tuition_breakdown.php)

Upon completion of coursework, certification as an ITDS is accomplished by completing processes outlined by the DOH (<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/AlternateSites/CMS-kids/ESproviders/ESITDS.htm>).

For additional information about the FAU ITDS program, contact Dr. Sharon M. Darling at [sdarlin4@fau.edu](mailto:sdarlin4@fau.edu) or 561-297-0807.

For further information about certification procedures at the state level, please contact either your local Early Steps Office (<http://www.cms-kids.com/ContactUs/EIPdir.pdf>) or Children's Medical Services in Tallahassee (1-850-245-4200, ext. 2262 or via email at [EarlySteps@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:EarlySteps@doh.state.fl.us)).

#### Option 2

This option is appropriate for professionals (a) **already possessing a Bachelor's degree** in early childhood or early childhood / special education, child and family development, family life specialist, communication sciences, psychology or social work (or equivalent degree based on transcript review); and (b) who has **one of the following certifications:**

- Department of Education Pre-kindergarten Disabilities Endorsement, **or**
- Certification in SKI\*HI, VIISA, INSITE certification or completion of university certificate in hearing specialist or vision specialist in early intervention, **or**
- Early Intervention Credential or equivalent certificate from another state;

and (c) who has **one year work experience** in early intervention (documentation of your experience must be on this form [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/AlternateSites/CMSkids/ESproviders/documents/ESCert\\_Exp.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/AlternateSites/CMSkids/ESproviders/documents/ESCert_Exp.pdf)).

Professionals eligible under Option 2 have two routes for obtaining the ITDS certification (2-A or 2-B).

Option 2-A: You can meet the competencies for the ITDS certificate by completing the following four distance learning courses at FAU (please see the FAU course information and enrollment alternatives described in **Option 1.**)

Option 2-B: You can also meet the requirements for the ITDS certificate by completing the following requirements:

- Completion of the Early Steps Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist six on-line modules. These modules can be found at <http://www.cms-kids.com/ESproviders/ITDS/index.html>
- Additional steps to begin providing services can be found at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/AlternateSites/CMS-kids/ESproviders/ESITDS.htm> *Requirements for Temporary Approval for an ITDS to Begin Providing Services*

If you need further information about Option 2-B, please contact either your local Early Steps Office (<http://www.cms-kids.com/ContactUs/EIPdir.pdf>) or Children's Medical Services in Tallahassee (1-850-245-4200, ext. 2262 or via email at [EarlySteps@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:EarlySteps@doh.state.fl.us)).

### Option 3

This option is appropriate for someone (a) **already possessing a Master's degree** in early childhood or early childhood / special education, child and family development, family life specialist, communication sciences, psychology or social work (or related field), and (b) who has at least **one year work experience** in early intervention.

Professionals eligible under Option 3 have two routes for obtaining the ITDS certification (3-A or 3-B).

Option 3-A: You can meet the competencies for the ITDS certificate by completing the following four distance learning courses at FAU (please see the FAU course information and enrollment alternatives described in **Option 1.**)

Option 3-B: You can also meet the requirements for the ITDS certificate by completing the following requirements:

- Completion of the Early Steps Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist six on-line modules. These modules can be found at <http://www.cms-kids.com/ESproviders/ITDS/index.html>
- Obtaining documentation of your work experience. The appropriate form can be found at: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/AlternateSites/CMS-kids/ESproviders/documents/ESCert\\_Exp.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/AlternateSites/CMS-kids/ESproviders/documents/ESCert_Exp.pdf),

Additional steps to begin providing services can be found at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/AlternateSites/CMS-kids/ESproviders/ESITDS.htm> *Requirements for Temporary Approval for an ITDS to Begin Providing Services.*

If you are in need of further information about Option 3-B, please contact either your local Early Steps Office (<http://www.cms-kids.com/ContactUs/EIPdir.pdf>) or Children's Medical Services in Tallahassee (1-850-245-4200, ext. 2262 or via email at [EarlySteps@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:EarlySteps@doh.state.fl.us)).

Thanks for your inquiry and best of luck with your educational and professional endeavors. For further inquiries, contact:

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