

Associated Talmud Torahs of Chicago

Early Childhood Teachers License Requirements

Purpose:

The Associated Talmud Torahs maintains its own Early Childhood Teachers License committee in order to maintain the high standard of educational personnel expected in ATT schools. Teachers who have completed a combination of academic courses and practicum experiences are granted this license.

Professional Benefits:

Licensed teachers are eligible for the benefits of the ATT Code of Professional Practices. The benefits include: tenure, pension (upon reaching the age of 30), board of review, and minimum pay scales. *Please note: Teachers who plan to apply for a license must complete all license requirements by March 15th of that year.*

Program Description:

Prerequisite: The candidate must have attended a Mesivta or religious high school and a post high school Yeshiva or Women's Seminary with studies that include the following content competencies: Halacha, Hebrew, Jewish History, Tanach and commentaries and Talmud (where applicable).

License is granted upon the successful completion of the following:

- I. Department of Teacher Education & Development:** The candidate must have completed 7 credits (28 sessions @ 1 ½ hours) offered through the ATT's Department of Teacher Education and Development. A minimum of 2 sessions in each of the following categories is required:
 - a. Knowledge and understanding of the Stages of Child Development
 - b. Theories of early childhood education (brain development, different styles of learning, different kinds of intelligences, awareness of theorists)
 - c. Appropriate practices (Age appropriate materials, methods, activities, expectations)
 - d. Instructional design (lesson planning, differentiated instruction, teaching towards objectives, etc.)
 - e. Special Education (must include at least two courses with video presentations regarding learning disabilities)
 - f. Classroom Dynamics (management, discipline, etc.)
 - g. Use of computers in the Early Childhood classroomSessions attended outside of the ATT must meet the requirements on the attached sheet.
- II. Peer Observation:** The candidate must observe at least one master teacher during a regular teaching session including a follow-up meeting with an ATT supervisor.
- III. Practicum:**
 - a. The candidate must complete three years of full-time teaching in an ATT school.
 - b. During that time, the candidate must participate in an intensive series (minimum of 4) of observation/conferences with an ATT supervisor to assist the candidate in improving his/her teaching skills.
 - c. The candidate must receive a letter of recommendation from the ATT supervisor.

The Teachers License is presented at the Annual Meeting of the Associated Talmud Torahs in May with the understanding that the candidate will complete that year of teaching. Upon receiving the ATT license, the teacher must complete one more year of full-time teaching in his/her school. Upon being rehired the subsequent year on April 15, the licensed teacher is eligible for tenure.

Please note: All candidates for an ATT Teacher's License must periodically review their transcripts with the Director of Teachers' Licensing to ascertain that all requirements have been met.