c) **Qualifications of Teacher/Lead Teacher for Centers Serving Children Between Three and Five Years**

| Teacher/Lead Teacher must meet at least one criteria from each category: |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category 1 | Category 2 | Category 3 | Category 4 |
| **Criteria:** Shall be at least 21 years old. | **Criteria:** Shall have a valid certificate in pediatric first aid, including management of a blocked airway, and rescue breathing. | **Criteria:** Shall have an undergraduate degree in one of the following:  
- Early Childhood Education  
- Child Development  
- Social Work  
- Nursing  
- Or other child-related field. | **Criteria:** Shall have a combination of coursework and experience, including:  
- A minimum of four college level courses in early childhood education and early child development  
- And a minimum of one year of experience working in a child care program serving children 0-5 years. |
| | **Criteria:** Shall have a national competency-based credential such as the CCP (Certified Childcare Professional), the CDA (Child Development Associate) or equivalent  
- And two years experience as a teacher serving the children of the age group(s) in care. | **Criteria:** Shall have:  
- At least 30 clock hours per year of job-related continuing education in the first year of employment  
- And 24 clock hours per year of job-related continuing education based on individual competency needs each year thereafter. |

Every Center, regardless of setting, shall have at least one licensed/certified/credentialed lead teacher (or mentor teacher).

All teachers responsible for a group are licensed/certified/credentialed/qualified as teachers or lead teachers with education in child development and early childhood education specific to this age group, as well as supervisory experience with preschool children.