



## **FIRST-YEAR BENCHMARKS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STUDENTS**

The mission of the Mercer County Career Center is to equip students with marketable skills through effective Career and Technical Education. This mission as it relates to the Early Childhood Education program means preparing students with the necessary skills and knowledge to complete the CDA-Ready (Child Development Associate).

Upon completing the third marking period, all first-year students attending Mercer County Career Center will be evaluated using Benchmarks. Benchmarks are an indicator of future success in the field and for further training. Students in Early Childhood Education are required to meet benchmarks to enhance their chances of completing the CDA-Ready requirements. Students who are unable to meet benchmarks will be referred to the Guidance Counselor or to the Special Education Support team if they receive special education services. These staff will facilitate students in the design of a career path better suited to meet their needs. Career Center staff, in collaboration with the student, and their families will help to develop a modified program option, a change in course at the Career Center, or a full schedule at the student's home school that does not include technical education.

- Follow all attendance guidelines as written in the Student Code of Conduct.
- Obtain a final letter grade no lower than a 65% for the semester most recently completed.
- Complete the Better Kid Care (BKC) 10-Hour Safety Course, *Get Started with Center-Based Care: Building Blocks for Quality*.
- Complete the *Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse Certificate: Mandated and Permissive Reporting in Pennsylvania*.
- Receive a 73% or higher on each unit test. Scores of less than a 73% may not be counted towards the CDA Ready.
- During the third marking period, score a 73% or higher on the weekly lab rubric indicating proficiency of skills needed for working with preschoolers.
- Complete all items assigned for the Resource Collection of the CDA Ready Portfolio, obtaining a score of 73% or higher on each item.
- Complete and receive a passing grade for twelve lesson plans.