

NCFE

CACHE

Purpose statement

**NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Award for
Early Years, Childcare and Education
QN: 603/2987/7**

Who is this qualification for?

The Level 3 Applied General Award for Early Years, Childcare and Education is equivalent in size and rigour to that of an AS Level and meets the entry requirements for higher education. It is aimed at post 16 year olds studying a Key Stage 5 curriculum with an interest in childcare and early years contexts, such as the role of the childcare practitioner and human development.

This qualification has been designed to meet the characteristics for inclusion in the Department for Education (DfE)'s 16-19 performance tables. The characteristics indicate the qualification's quality and rigour.

It has been designed to sit within a study programme complementing A Levels and other Level 3 subjects.

This qualification aims to:

- focus on the applied study of childcare, early years and education
- offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a significant core of knowledge and theoretical content with broad-ranging applicability.

The objectives of this qualification are to help learners to:

- progress to further and higher education
- develop knowledge and skills in early years, childcare and education.

All units within this qualification are vocationally based. This qualification will take approximately one year to complete.

There are no specific recommended prior learning requirements for this qualification. However, you may find it helpful if you've already achieved a Level 2 qualification.

What will the learner study as part of the Level 3 qualification?

This qualification will provide learners with a theoretical base from which knowledge and understanding of theory and concept can be applied, explored and established.

Learners will need to complete two mandatory units:

- Unit 01: The role of the early years, childcare and education practitioner
- Unit 02: Human development from conception to 19 years.

In addition to these learners will need to complete one external assessment in the form of a scenario based short answer examination.

What knowledge and skills will the learner develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

In this qualification learners will develop an understanding of:

- diverse settings and the role of the childcare professional
- roles, responsibilities, skills and attributes for working in childcare settings
- types and functions of childcare services
- significant milestones and relevant theories related to human development.

This core knowledge represents a sound basis for progression to further studies in related areas.

In this qualification learners will develop practical skills and techniques in:

- teamwork and partnership building
- professional and personal development
- communication
- evaluation
- research
- analysis
- reflection.

These underpinning, transferrable skills will benefit learners if they choose to progress to further or higher education.

Why should learners take this particular qualification?

Learners should take this qualification if they wish to progress to higher education from a general education route, developing their range of knowledge in child development, education and care.

There are other related Level 3 qualifications offered by NCFE CACHE, though they follow a more vocational route:

Technical Level 3 Certificate in Childcare and Education

This Certificate is suitable if learners wish to work towards a career in early years education and care or progress to higher education in a related field. This Certificate is ideal if learners wish to progress onto the Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education as it shares eight mandatory units with this Diploma.

Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator)

The Diploma is suitable if learners wish to progress to higher education in a related field of study or work as an Early Years Educator. This Diploma is ideal if learners have already completed the Technical Level 3 Certificate in Childcare and Education as it includes the Certificate's eight mandatory units.

Technical Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator)

This Diploma is suitable if learners wish to progress to higher education, preparing learners to become Early Years Educators, enabling them to work with children from birth to five years and gain knowledge of children aged up to seven years. This qualification is also suitable if learners wish to work as an Early Years Educator.

What could this qualification lead to?

Successful completion of this qualification will assist learners to progress to Level 4 qualifications in related subjects such as Children and Young People, Early Years Educator, Health and Social Care, Supporting Teaching and Learning or Playwork.

Learners could also progress to a Children and Young People's Apprenticeship. These apprenticeships are suitable if learners wish to go through a structured training programme that teaches all aspects of caring for children and young people, working alongside experienced staff to learn the skills learners needed in an area, which can lead to secure employment upon completion.

The Level 3 Applied General Award for Early Years, Childcare and Education fulfils entry requirements for a range of higher education courses, learners could go on to study Foundation Degrees or Degrees in subjects such as:

- BA/FdA Childhood Studies
- BA/FdA Childhood Studies with Practitioner Status
- FdA Community, Youth and Families
- BA Youth, Community and Families.

Which subjects will complement this course?

The following qualifications and subject areas will complement this course:

- Level 3 Applied General Award and Certificate in Health and Social Care
- Technical Level 3 Certificate and Extended Diploma in Childcare and Education
- Level 3 Certificate and Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools
- Level 3 Certificate and Diploma in Playwork.

Learners can study this qualification alongside A Levels as part of a Level 3 Study Programme.

Who supports this qualification?

The following Higher Education Institutions recognise this qualification for entry to a higher level course or qualification:

- University College Birmingham
- University of Chichester
- University of Bedfordshire
- University of Huddersfield
- University of Northampton.

If there are larger and or smaller versions of this qualification within the suite, or if it is available at different skill levels, why should a learner take this particular one?

This qualification is also available as part of a Certificate (370 GLH). The Award will give learners a useful introduction to childcare at Level 3. Learners might choose this Award initially to explore the subject, or to complement other subjects that they're studying. They could then go on to study the more substantial Certificate in Early Years, Childcare and Education, should they wish to further develop their understanding and skills as part of a study programme.

Further Information

For more information about the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Award for Early Years, Childcare and Education (603/2987/7) please see the qualification page on the NCFE website.