

NCFE

CACHE

Purpose statement

**NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Childcare
and Education
QN: 601/3999/7**

Purpose statement

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification has been designed for learners who want to work in early years childcare and education. It also enables learners who wish to progress to Higher Education to study the Certificate alongside another qualification in a different subject area. UCAS tariff points have been awarded for this qualification.

Learners must be at least 16 years old. We do not specify any other entry requirement for the Certificate.

It is intended that this qualification will be a Technical Level qualification. Technical Level qualifications are for learners who wish to specialise in a technical occupation, in the case of the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Childcare and Education, childcare. The qualification has been designed to meet the characteristics for inclusion in the Department for Education's 16 – 19 performance tables. The characteristics indicate the qualification's quality and rigour. It is supported by the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years and Higher Education institutions.

What does this qualification cover?

This Certificate is comprised of eight mandatory units which cover the following key subject areas:

- child development from conception to seven years
- children's health and well-being
- providing safe environments for children
- child health
- play and learning
- children's additional needs
- observation, assessment and planning
- a competence-based Professional Practice Portfolio covering the above areas.

Completion of this qualification is achieved through a mixture of classroom based learning and experience in a Real Work Environment. It can usually be completed in one year.

What knowledge and skills will this qualification give you?

Completion of this qualification will equip you with knowledge, understanding and skills across a range of key subject areas, for example:

- the stages and sequences of child development
- children's needs in relation to emotional and physical well-being
- the role of the early years practitioner in maintaining a healthy and safe environment for children
- safeguarding children and child protection
- theoretical approaches to play and learning
- the role of play in relation to children's learning and development □ working in partnership to meet children's additional needs □ child observation and assessment.

This qualification requires the use of techniques for evaluation, analysis and reflection, and these study skills will benefit you if you choose to progress to Further or Higher Education.

Is this qualification right for you?

This qualification is a good choice for you if you are looking to progress to the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator). It is also suitable if you wish to progress to Higher Education and are studying the Certificate as part of a wider programme of study.

This qualification is ideal for you if you have already completed the Level 3 Award in Childcare and Education, as you will already have achieved two of the mandatory units for the Certificate.

Why should you take this particular qualification?

You should take this qualification if you want to progress to the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator), or if you wish to progress to Higher Education (when taking the Certificate as part of a wider programme of study).

The Certificate provides direct progression to the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator). The Certificate may be more suitable for you than the Diploma if you would prefer to complete your learning in stages, or build your confidence before progressing to the Diploma.

There are other related qualifications at Level 3:

- **Level 3 Award in Childcare and Education**

The Level 3 Award in Childcare and Education shares two mandatory units with, and provides direct progression to, the Level 3 Certificate in Childcare and Education. The Award may be more suitable if you wish to progress to Higher Education but are taking other larger qualifications as part of a wider programme of study.

- **Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education**

The Diploma is suitable if you wish to progress to Higher Education in a related field of study or work as an Early Years Educator. This Certificate shares eight mandatory units with the Diploma.

- **Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care**

This Diploma is suitable if you wish to progress to Higher Education while studying a smaller qualification as part of a wider programme of study. It is also suitable if you wish to work as an Early Years Educator.

- **Level 3 Preparing to Work in Early Years Education and Care**

This qualification provides learners with a direct progression route on to the Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator). It is suitable if you wish to work towards a career in early years education and care while following a wider programme of study. It is not suitable if you wish to progress to Higher Education.

This is also a related qualification at Level 2:

- **Level 2 Certificate in an Introduction to Early Years Education and Care** This qualification is suitable if you would like an introduction to working in early years education and care. It enables progression to other early years qualifications at Level 3.

What could this qualification lead to?

Learners can progress into various supervised job roles in the statutory, voluntary or private sectors such as (this list is not exhaustive):

- practitioner in day nurseries
- practitioner in nursery schools
- practitioner in reception classes in primary schools
- pre-school worker
- home based childcarer
- nanny.

This Certificate also provides learners with direct progression to the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator).

The Certificate is part of a suite of qualifications (Award, Certificate and Diploma in Childcare and Education). The Certificate provides learners with a broad foundation of knowledge and skills within early years childcare and education in preparation for progression to the Diploma. It also enables learners to progress to Higher Education (if studied alongside another qualification).

Additionally, it provides achievement for learners who are unable to complete the Diploma.

What subjects will complement this course?

This qualification is suitable to be studied alongside English and maths GCSE.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years and the following Higher Education institutions:

- Newcastle College
- Hertford Regional College.

Further Information

Please visit the NCFE website for more information.