

**NCFE**

**CACHE**

# Purpose statement

**NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma in  
Early Years Education and Care (Early Years  
Educator)  
QN: 601/8438/3**

## **Purpose Statement**

### **Qualification overview**

The Technical Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator) confers the knowledge and skills learners require to become Early Years Educators, enabling them to work with children from birth to 5 years and gain knowledge of children aged 5 to 7 years.

The qualification is approved by the National College of Teaching and Leadership as full and relevant.

Since September 2014, the Early Years Educator qualifications have been the only Level 3 vocational qualifications to confer a licence to practice in childcare. Upon achievement of this qualification learners will be able to enter the workforce as Early Years Educators or access Higher Education.

### **Who is this qualification for?**

This qualification has been designed for learners who want to work in early years childcare and education as an Early Years Educator. The high level of skills required to achieve this qualification also enables learners to progress to Higher Education within early years childcare and education or a different field of study. UCAS Tariff points have been awarded to this qualification.

### **Age restrictions**

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

This is a Tech Level qualification and the Department for Education (DfE) has confirmed that this qualification (subject to any future reviews by the DfE) has been approved for inclusion within the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 Key Stage 5 performance tables.

Tech Level qualifications are for learners who wish to specialise in a technical occupation which, in the case of the Technical Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator), is childcare. The characteristics required for inclusion in the performance tables indicate the qualification's quality and rigour. It is supported by employers and Higher Education Institutions.

### **Qualification content**

This Diploma comprises 24 mandatory units which cover the following key subject areas:

- supporting healthy lifestyles for children through the provision of food, nutrition and exercise
- promote children's physical and emotional well-being
- supporting children who are unwell
- understanding the needs of the mother and baby during pre-conception, pregnancy and the first year of life
- the role of the early years practitioner
- legislation relating to the health and safety, safeguarding, protection and welfare of children
- working in partnership with parents/carers and other professionals

- the value of play in early years planning, leading and reviewing play activities which support children's learning and development
- theoretical perspectives and philosophical approaches to play
- enabling play environments
- children's emergent literacy and mathematical skills
- the needs of children in preparing for school
- planning to meet the needs of the developing child
- facilitate the cognitive development of children
- developing the speech, language and communication of children
- promoting the physical, personal, social and emotional development of children
- supporting children with additional needs
- using observation, assessment and planning to promote the development of children
- professional development.

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 two years.

### **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
- the role of play in relation to children's learning and development
- contributing to enabling play environments for children
- working in partnership to meet children's additional needs
- child observation and assessment
- developing children's emergent literacy and numeracy skills
- using longitudinal studies to observe, assess and plan for children's needs
- reflective practice and professional development
- study skills.

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

### **What type of qualification is this?**

This qualification is a good choice for you if you wish to work as an Early Years Educator. It is also suitable if you wish to progress to Higher Education in a related field and are studying it alongside a smaller qualification(s).

This qualification is ideal for you if you have already completed the Level 3 Certificate in Preparing to Work in Early Years Education and Care, as you will already have achieved 11 of the mandatory units for the Diploma.

### Why should I choose this qualification?

You should take this qualification if you want to work as an Early Years Educator or progress to Higher Education in a related field.

### Are there any qualifications similar to this?

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.
- **Technical Level 3 Certificate in Childcare and Education**  
The Certificate is suitable if you wish to work towards a career in early years education and care or progress to Higher Education in a related field of study while following a wider programme of study. The Certificate is ideal if you wish to progress onto the Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator) as it shares eight mandatory units with this Diploma.
- **Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education**  
This 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 Diploma is ideal if you have already completed the **Technical Level 3 Certificate in Childcare and Education** as it includes the Certificate's eight mandatory units.
- **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.

### Progression opportunities

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

- Early Years Educator
- practitioner in day nurseries

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- practitioner in nursery schools
- practitioner in reception classes in primary schools
- pre-school worker
- home-based child carer
- nanny.

The Diploma is a full and relevant qualification and, in combination with GCSE English and maths at grade C or above, provides learners with a licence to practise as an Early Years Educator. It also enables learners to progress to Higher Education.

### **What subjects will complement this course?**

The requirement for Level 3 Early Years Educators (EYE) to hold GCSE English and maths A\*-C, has been broadened to Level 2 qualifications, including Functional Skills.

This will also apply to an apprenticeship route.

### **Support for this qualification**

This qualification is supported by the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (PACEY).

For further information about this qualification, please contact NCFE on 0191 239 8000 or email us at [customersupport@ncfe.org.uk](mailto:customersupport@ncfe.org.uk).