

NCFE

CACHE

Purpose statement

**NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and
Education (Early Years Educator)**

QN: 601/8437/1

Purpose Statement

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 for this qualification.

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

This qualification is a Tech Level qualification on the Department for Education's 1619 2018 performance tables. Tech Level qualifications are for learners who wish to specialise in a technical occupation, in the case of the NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator), 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 employers and Higher Education institutions.

What does this qualification cover?

This Diploma is comprised of 14 mandatory units which cover the following key subject areas:

- child development from conception to 7 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
- emergent literacy
- emergent mathematics
- preparing for school readiness
- international perspectives on childcare and education
- reflective practice for professional development
- professional partnerships in early years
- 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 2 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
- 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
- children's emergent literacy and numeracy 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.

Is this qualification right for you?

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.

This qualification is ideal for you if you have already completed the Level 3 Technical Certificate in Childcare and Education, as you will already have achieved 8 of the mandatory units for the Diploma.

Why should you take this particular 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.

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 Technical 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 7 mandatory units with this Diploma.

Technical 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 Technical 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 unsupervised job roles in the statutory, voluntary or private sectors such as (this list is not exhaustive):

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

The Diploma is part of a suite of qualifications (Award, Certificate and Diploma in Childcare and Education). 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?

You could study this qualification alongside English and maths GCSE.

Who supports this qualification?

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

Further Information

For more information about NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator) (601/8437/1) please see the support materials tab on the qualification page on the NCFE website.