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New qualifications

Qualification	<u>NCFE CACHE Level 3 Extended Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) (610/6133/5)</u>
Go-live date	31 October 2025
Useful information	This qualification is suitable for learners aged 16 and above. This qualification is designed to prepare learners with the knowledge, skills and understanding to enter work in an early years setting and be included in staff-to-child ratios. It will also allow learners the opportunity to progress to higher education. This qualification includes both knowledge and skills that meet the Department for Education Early Years Educator criteria in full and map to the knowledge, skills and behaviours within the Early Years Educator occupational standard ST0135 in England. This qualification is part of a nested suite including the following qualification: • NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) (610/4164/6) It may also be useful to learners studying qualifications in the following sectors: • early years and childcare Please refer to the UCAS website for further details of points allocation and the most up-to-date information. This qualification is not eligible for direct claims status (DCS). This is because this qualification provides licence to practise. To apply for approval for this qualification, please visit the qualification page on the NCFE website. Find out more about funding for this and other qualifications on our funding page.



Learning resources	Flashcards, a Glossary and Learner Guide for units 11 to 16 are available free of charge. A Learner Guide for units 1 to 10 is available for £139.
Guided learning hours (GLH)	1154
Total qualification time (TQT)	1284
Credit	128
Level	3
Fee	£281

Qualification	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Northern Ireland) (610/5996/1)
Go-live date	31 October 2025
Useful information	This qualification is suitable for learners aged 17 and above. This qualification is designed for learners who wish to develop the knowledge and skills required to work in a range of health and social care settings within Northern Ireland. The qualification is formed of 11 mandatory units. The first 7 mandatory units are shared with the NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Safe and Effective Practice (Northern Ireland) qualification, which will be made available to learners at a later stage. The mandatory units cover core competencies that have been categorised around the following key themes: • communication and information sharing • health, safety and wellbeing • principles, standards and values • continuing professional development (CPD) in the context of health and social care



	This qualification is aligned to the Health and Social Care Apprenticeship Framework and is fully endorsed by the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC). Learners must be employed in relevant health and social care roles in Northern Ireland. This qualification is eligible for direct claims status (DCS). To apply for approval for this qualification please visit the qualification page on the NCFE website.
Guided learning hours (GLH)	278
Total qualification time (TQT)	370
Credit	37
Level	2
Fee	£118



Qualification amendment

Qualifications	<u>NCFE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Cyber Security (Diploma) 610/4004/6</u> <u>NCFE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Data Technician (Diploma) 610/4006/X</u> <u>NCFE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Digital Support (Diploma) (Digital Application Technician) 610/4005/8/DAT</u> <u>NCFE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Digital Support (Diploma) (Digital Service Technician) 610/4005/8/DST</u> <u>NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) 610/3984/6</u> <u>NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Montessori Pedagogy – Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) 610/3983/4</u> <u>NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Senior Healthcare Support (Diploma) 610/3988/3</u>
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[NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Supporting Teaching and Learning \(Diploma\) 610/4000/9](#)

[NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Specialist in Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators in Early Years Settings \(Award\) 610/4001/0](#)

[NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for Early Years Practitioner \(Diploma\) 610/4587/1](#)

[NCFE CACHE Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner \(Diploma\) 610/4588/3](#)

[NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry in Healthcare Support \(Diploma\) 610/4528/7](#)

[NCFE CACHE Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry in Healthcare Support \(Diploma\) 610/4529/9](#)

[NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist in Early Years Nutrition \(Award\) 610/4517/2](#)

[NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist in Neuroscience in Early Years \(Award\) 610/4570/6](#)



	<u>NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist in Mental Health in the Early Years (Certificate) 610/4509/3</u> <u>NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist in Adverse Childhood Experiences in Early Years (Certificate) 610/4567/6</u> <u>NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist in Technology Enabled Care (Certificate) 610/4524/X</u> <u>NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist for the Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator Assistant (Award) 610/4540/8</u> <u>NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist for Designated Safeguarding Officers in Early Years (Award) 610/4504/4</u>
Summary of amendment	To ensure further clarity for learners and centres, we have made some minor changes in our Qualification Specifications. Further details on these changes are included in the change history record in the updated Qualification Specifications.
Date amendment comes into effect	14 November 2025



Withdrawals

Qualifications	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Health and Social Care (603/2914/2) NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Award in Health and Social Care (603/2913/0)
Registration end date	28 November 2025 This is the last date we can accept learner registrations. Please ensure your learners are aware that these qualifications are no longer available after the withdrawal date.
Certification end date	28 November 2028 This is the last date we can process learner certificates.
Reason for withdrawal	This is due to removal of funding and performance table status as well as an overlap with T Levels.