

## Early Years: What qualifications should I run in September 2025?

My learners are:	16-19	19+	16-19 or adult	Apprentices
<b>The course will be funded?</b>	16-19 ESFA	Adult Skills (national or regional)	No funding, the learners will study full cost	Apprenticeship
<b>The qualification I should run at Level 3</b>	T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years (Level 3) (delivered by NCFE) - 603/5829/4	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) - 610/3984/6	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) - 610/4164/6	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) - 610/4164/6
<b>Is there a Montessori equivalent?</b>	No	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Montessori Pedagogy - Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) - 610/3983/4	No – NCFE are withdrawing the qualifications currently offered for 16-19 learners and will only have the reform version live for	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Montessori Pedagogy - Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) - 610/3983/4
<b>What about Level 2?</b>	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) - 610/4587/1	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) - 610/4587/1	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) - 610/4587/1	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner - 603/3723/0

A little more about each qualification:

Qualification	GLH	Notes
T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years (Level 3) (delivered by NCFE) - 603/5829/4	906	From September 2025, the T Level will be the only funded option for 16-19 learners who wish to do a full EYE qualification. All other qualifications will have their funding removed.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) - 610/3984/6	864	This is a new technical qualification that has been approved through the post-16 reforms. It is fully funded for adult delivery and has a minimum age of 19. It is a direct replacement for the legacy workforce qualification (601/2629/2)
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) - 610/4164/6	864	This qualification is identical to the qualification above (610/3984/6) but is not funded for adult delivery. It is designed for apprenticeship and full-cost delivery as the minimum age is set at 16. As above, this is also a replacement for the legacy workforce qualification (601/2629/2)
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Montessori Pedagogy - Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) - 610/3983/4	690	This is the Montessori equivalent of 610/3984/6 and is a new technical qualification that has been approved through the post-16 reforms. As above, it is fully funded for adult delivery and has a minimum age of 19.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) - 610/4587/1	293	This is the new reformed version of the legacy EYP qualification (603/3723/0). Whilst essential being the same as its legacy version, this one will be definitely funded for 16-19 and adults for the foreseeable future.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner - 603/3723/0	293	This is the legacy EYP qualification which currently remains funded for all learners and will therefore not be withdrawn. We anticipate that it will eventually be replaced by the newer version (610/4587/1). This is also named as the mandatory qualification in the apprenticeship, so we recommend apprenticeship providers continue to use this one.

As set out in the EYFS statutory framework, all our qualifications are recognised by the DfE as full and relevant against either the Early Years Practitioner (level 2) or Early Years Educator (level 3) criteria, and therefore allows the holder to be included within the appropriate staff:child ratios.