



NCFE Careers in Early Years Education and Childcare

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NCFE resources are optional support tools and are not essential to the delivery of the relevant qualification. They provide an interpretation of how the subject content listed in the Qualification Specification can be delivered. They are written and reviewed by subject experts independently to the Qualification Specification and to the assessment materials. The content included in these resources does not indicate any content coverage in summative assessment materials.

Centres must refer to the Qualification Specification for the relevant qualification for full details of the mandatory content of the qualification. The teaching guidance section of the Qualification Specification is advisory and provides useful guidance to support delivery of the teaching content of the qualification.

The content of these resources is correct at the time of publishing but may be subject to change.

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Introduction

This NCFE Careers in Early Years Education and Childcare guide is designed to provide a concise overview of the qualifications needed to undertake a range of early years education and childcare roles.

'Full and relevant' qualifications

The Department for Education (DfE) sets out the minimum qualification and experience requirements that providers must ensure their staff meet to be recognised as 'full and relevant' level 2 and level 3 members of staff for the purpose of working within the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory staff:child ratios.

NCFE early years practitioner and early years educator qualifications are 'full and relevant' and approved by the DfE, meeting these minimum requirements and enabling learners to count in staff:child ratios.



Early years education and childcare roles/titles index

In the early years education and childcare industry, roles may be known by a variety of different job titles. For reference, an alphabetical index of these is provided below, with links to the most relevant role/page number within this resource.

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Job titles (A to Z)	Roles	Page
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Wraparound childcare staff (school setting)	See Playworker	12

Getting into the early years education and childcare sector

NCFE Functional Skills qualifications



Most early years education and childcare roles require you to have a sector-specific qualification. For many of these qualifications, you must first have a **level 2 in English** (equivalent to grade 4/grade C at GCSE).



For qualifications that lead to managerial roles, you must also have **level 2 maths** (equivalent to grade 4/grade C at GCSE).

If you do not have the grades needed to meet the qualification entry requirements, you can undertake an **NCFE Functional Skills qualification**.

English and maths skills form the foundation for effective communication, problem-solving, and decision-making in both personal and professional settings.

These skills help individuals navigate everyday tasks, advance in their careers, and manage life's challenges with confidence.

Whether it is writing, calculating, or critical thinking, strong English and maths abilities are key to success in all areas of life.

For further details visit [NCFE.org.uk](https://www.ncfe.org.uk) – Sector Specialisms – English and maths (Functional Skills).



What English and maths qualifications do I already have?

Do I need to upskill?

Employability and occupational studies



Getting into work and succeeding in the workplace also involves a number of competencies, such as CV writing and attending job interviews. **NCFE's employability and occupational studies qualifications** will provide you with a range of transferable and essential skills to assist you on your career path, such as:



- interpersonal communication skills
- interview skills
- introduction to essential work skills
- job application skills
- job search skills
- job and training search skills
- problem-solving skills for work
- time management skills

Working in the sector typically requires the achievement of practically applied competencies.

For further details visit [NCFE.org.uk](https://www.ncfe.org.uk) – Adult education and training – Preparing for work.



What employability/occupational skills do I already have?

What NCFE qualifications would help me to upskill?

Early years education and childcare sector specialism guidance

NCFE early years education and childcare sector



For information about NCFE's early years education and childcare opportunities, visit [NCFE.org.uk](https://www.ncfe.org.uk) – **Sector Specialisms – CACHE Early years and childcare.**



From here you can access information/links to the following features:

- become an expert educator
- develop as a practitioner
- the Education and Early Years Career Toolkit, with information on:
 - continuing professional development (CPD)
 - contemporary issues and debates videos, articles and resources
 - CACHE Alumni network and resources
- embedding sustainability into early years
- employer guide to competency-based qualifications in education and childcare
- our sector expertise
- preparing for placement
- why choose a career in this sector

Education and Early Years Career Toolkit



For useful resources and guidance on raising your career aspirations, visit the **Education and Early Years Career Toolkit** at [NCFE.org.uk](https://www.ncfe.org.uk) – **Sector Specialisms – CACHE Early years and childcare – Education and Early Years Careers Toolkit: Explore the toolkit.**



From here you can access information/links to the following features:

- back to early years and childcare
- CPD carousel
- inspirational journeys
- student conferences
- tuning in for inspiration

Developing your professional skills

NCFE's continuing professional development (CPD) area



Continually working to improve your practice and keep up to date with training is vital to maintaining high quality standards within the early years education and childcare sector.



NCFE's CPD area supports learners and practitioners in improving their practice.

There are a range of resources, including articles, videos and podcasts to help you develop your professional skills within the early years education and childcare sector.

Visit [NCFE.org.uk](https://www.ncfe.org.uk) – Sector Specialisms – CACHE Early years and childcare – Education and Early Years Career Toolkit: Explore the toolkit – CPD: Explore our resources.

CPD topics include:

- communication and language
- contemporary issues and debates
- creativity
- early years foundation stage (EYFS)
- physical development
- safeguarding
- special educational needs and disability (SEND)
- sustainability
- teaching and learning
- wellbeing
- working with babies effectively
- working with families effectively

What professional skills do I already have?

What NCFE tools would help me to upskill?



Roles in early years education and childcare

The following section is a collection of key information taken from the NCFE and relevant government websites. It contains information on:

- types of provision
- common job titles
- role summary
- recommended qualifications
- skills and behaviours required
- safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and other requirements
- progression opportunities

This information is accurate at the time of publication.

Government sources



Earlyyearscareers.campaign.gov.uk

Nationalcareers.service.gov.uk – Explore careers – Explore by sector – Education and early years

Gov.uk – search 'Early years qualifications list: UK only'



Playworker



Type of provision: adventure playground, charity, community facility, holiday play scheme, NHS hospital, private business, private hospital

Common job titles:

- after-school playworker
- before-school playworker
- childcare assistant
- childcare worker
- playworker
- school club supervisor
- sports coach
- wraparound assistant
- wraparound care assistant
- wraparound childcare staff (school setting)



Role summary: as a playworker you may work with children and young people in an adventure playground, operating before and after school, and during school holidays. You will apply the play principles as part of your daily practice.

As a playworker you will:

- build trust
- deal with any issues or incidents
- encourage children’s self-expression
- encourage children to communicate any worries
- help children to feel safe and comfortable
- lead and supervise play/games
- plan and prepare safe and secure play areas
- provide meals (such as breakfast) and snacks
- respond to children’s needs
- use the Play Principles to develop an understanding of playwork
- work in partnership with parents, carers and other professionals

Recommended qualifications:

- NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma in Playwork (610/0643/9)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork (603/7635/1)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Understanding Playwork (610/0644/0)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (610/0645/2)

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for more early years education and childcare qualifications.

Playworker



Skills and behaviours required

To work as a playworker you will need to demonstrate:

- active listening skills
- basic skills with a computer/hand-held device
- enthusiasm for working with children
- empathy, responsiveness, patience and sensitivity
- flexibility and openness to change
- that you can remain calm in a stressful situation
- that you can work effectively under pressure
- that you can work well with others
- the ability to accept feedback
- thinking and reasoning skills
- verbal communication skills

Safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and other requirements

To work as a playworker you may need to:

- pass an enhanced DBS check
- follow the Playwork Principles
- complete a paediatric first aid certificate

Progression opportunities



From this role, it may be possible to progress to other roles within early years education and childcare, for example, you could:

- become a playwork development officer for a local authority
- become a senior playworker in charge of a team
- develop into a manager or playwork scheme supervisor
- set up as self-employed, running your own childcare project/after-school club
- work as a teaching assistant in a school

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for qualifications relevant to progression opportunities.

Early years practitioner



Type of provision: day nursery, nursery school

Common job titles:

- childcare worker
- early years practitioner (level 2)
- nursery assistant
- nursery practitioner
- playgroup assistant
- pre-school assistant
- pre-school practitioner



Role summary: as an early years practitioner you will work as part of a team to help educate and care for children between birth and five years who attend the provision.

As an early years practitioner you may:

- act as the key person for individual children
- facilitate holistic learning and development for babies and children in adherence with the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework
- help children settle into the setting
- maintain safe, hygienic and dynamic indoor/outdoors spaces
- manage individual personal care routines for babies and children
- monitor and record progress
- plan and facilitate activities and experiences in line with individual stage, need and interest of the child/children in accordance with the areas of learning and development of the EYFS
- supervise children on outings
- use creative play, games, singing, reading and storytelling to facilitate development
- work in partnership with parents, carers and others to support children’s ongoing learning and development

Recommended qualifications

The Department for Education (DfE) sets the standards and policies for the sector through the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework. NCFE qualifications meet the staff:child ratio requirements of the DfE.

- NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner (603/3723/0)
- NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4587/1)

Early years practitioner



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

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for more early years education and childcare qualifications.

Skills and behaviours required

To work as an early years practitioner you will need to demonstrate:

- active listening skills
- basic skills with a computer/hand-held device
- effective communication skills
- empathy, responsiveness and sensitivity
- flexibility and openness to change
- patience
- that you can remain calm in a stressful situation
- that you can work effectively under pressure
- that you can work well with others
- the ability to recognise the impact of your own behaviour on others
- verbal communication skills

Safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and other requirements

To work as an early years practitioner you may need to:

- pass an enhanced DBS check
- follow the EYFS statutory framework for groups and school-based providers
- gain a paediatric first aid certificate



Early years practitioner



Progression opportunities



From this role, it may be possible to progress to other roles within early years education and childcare, for example, you could:

- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) (610/4164/6) or NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3984/6) to become an early years educator
- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma for the Early Years Senior Practitioner (610/4163/4) to become an early years senior practitioner
- develop a specialism, such as working alongside children with particular support needs (including mental health and learning or physical disabilities)

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for qualifications relevant to progression opportunities.



Early years teacher



Type of provision: nursery, nursery school, pre-school

Common job titles:

- early years teacher
- nursery teacher



Role summary: as an early years teacher you will facilitate children from birth to five years to learn and develop.

As an early years teacher you may:

- adapt the curriculum to meet individual needs of children
- be a key support to other members of the team
- develop lesson plans
- establish and maintain professional relationships with others
- liaise with other staff including special educational needs and/or disabilities co-ordinator (SENDCo) to meet and respond to the individual needs of babies and children
- model high-quality interaction
- monitor and record progress
- recognise and act upon professional curiosity to keep children safe
- report any progression issues

Recommended qualifications:

- level 6 early years initial teacher training (EYITT)
- level 6 apprenticeship for the early years teacher, to gain early years teacher status (EYTS)

Early years teachers require EYTS to meet the early years teachers’ standards.

Teaching requires qualifications beyond the scope of provision at NCFE. Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section at the end of this document, for routes towards higher study within early years education and childcare.

Skills and behaviours required

To work as an early years teacher you will need to demonstrate:

- an ability to guide and facilitate play

Early years teacher



- an ability to establish and maintain professional relationships
- competence in using a computer and various software packages
- creativity in your approach to carrying out tasks/presenting ideas
- empathy, responsiveness and sensitivity
- flexibility and openness to change
- patience
- that you can model effective practice
- that you can reflect on practice
- that you can recognise the impact of your own behaviour on others
- that you can remain calm in a stressful situation
- that you can work effectively under pressure
- that you can work well with others
- verbal communication skills

Safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and other requirements

To work as an early years teacher you will need to:

- pass an enhanced DBS check
- follow the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework for groups and school-based providers

Progression opportunities



From this role, it may be possible to progress to other roles within early years education and childcare, for example, you could:

- train to become a play therapist
- train to become a primary school teacher
- progress to a management position within a nursery/nursery group
- progress to teaching early years courses
- work as an assessor or tutor
- work as a supply teacher

EYTS means you are qualified to teach children up to the age of five. To teach in a primary school, or to teach older children, you will usually need to achieve qualified teacher status (QTS).

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for qualifications relevant to progression opportunities.

Early years educator



Type of provision: nursery, nursery school, pre-school

Common job titles:

- early years educator
- early years practitioner (level 3)
- manager
- nursery manager
- pre-school manager
- pre-school practitioner (level 3)
- pre-school room leader
- senior team member
- team leader



Role summary: as an early years educator you will work with children from birth to five years, overseeing particular rooms in a setting. If acting as manager, you will also oversee the setting's staff.

As an early years educator you may:

- act as the key person for individual children
- act upon professional curiosity to keep children safe
- adhere to policies and procedures within the setting in accordance with the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework
- advocate for the individual needs of babies, children and their families
- establish and maintain professional relationships with others
- model high-quality interactions
- nurture dynamic, enabling environments both indoors and outdoors
- plan, lead and evaluate learning outcomes (LOs) to meet the individual needs and interests of children
- plan and lead on learning activities designed to facilitate development
- supervise a team
- support a team in preparing children for school, as part of their long-term progress

If acting in a management position you may also:

- be responsible for ensuring the setting meets safety and child protection regulations
- build a team and recruit staff
- communicate with parents and carers about progress
- maintain records and produce reports
- manage budgets

Early years educator



Recommended qualifications

The Department for Education (DfE) sets the standards and policies for the sector through the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework. NCFE qualifications meet the staff:child ratio requirements of the DfE.

- NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning (603/2476/4)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) (610/4164/6)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3984/6)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Montessori Pedagogy – Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3983/4)
- T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years (Level 3) (delivered by NCFE) (610/5748/4)
- NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma for the Early Years Senior Practitioner (610/4163/4)

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for more early years education and childcare qualifications.

Skills and behaviours required

To work as an early years educator you will need to demonstrate:

- an ability to facilitate playful, enabling and dynamic environments
- an ability to plan, lead and evaluate activities and experiences within the EYFS statutory framework
- competence in using a computer and various software packages
- empathy, responsiveness and sensitivity
- knowledge of the characteristics of effective teaching and learning
- patience
- that you are a reflective practitioner committed to continuing professional development (CPD)
- that you can accept feedback
- that you can remain calm in a stressful situation
- that you can work effectively under pressure
- the ability to monitor individual and team performance
- the ability to monitor your own performance

If acting in a management position you will also need to demonstrate:

- business management skills
- leadership skills

Early years educator



Safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and other requirements

To work as an early years educator you will need to:

- pass an enhanced DBS check
- follow the EYFS statutory framework for groups and school-based providers

Progression opportunities



From this role, it may be possible to progress to other roles within early years education and childcare, for example, with additional experience you could:

- undertake an apprenticeship for the early years teacher (EYTS)
- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 4 Certificate for the Early Years Advanced Practitioner (601/8424/3) to become an early years senior practitioner
- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 4 Diploma in Early Years Montessori Pedagogy from Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (610/4160/9)
- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma for the Early Years Senior Practitioner (610/4163/4) to become an early years senior practitioner
- progress to management (nursery or pre-school)
- specialise or lead on a particular area within a setting, for example, become a curriculum lead
- become a trainer/assessor on childcare courses
- become a setting inspector
- progress to management of a group of nurseries within a local area/region
- set up as self-employed, running your own private setting
- train as a children's social worker

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for qualifications relevant to progression opportunities.



Teaching assistant



Type of provision: school

Common job titles:

- classroom assistant
- learning support assistant
- teaching assistant



Role summary: as a teaching assistant you will support in facilitating children from five years to learn and develop. The role supports pupils in primary, secondary or special schools, as well as colleges.

As a teaching assistant you may:

- support children and young people with special educational need and disabilities (SEND)
- support teachers in the delivery of the curriculum as appropriate to the needs of the children
- work in partnership with parents, carers and other professionals
- work with individual or small groups of children/young people

Teaching assistants may also develop specialisms in particular areas of support, for example:

- behaviour
- language and communication
- pastoral care
- SEND

Recommended qualifications:

- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Supporting Teaching and Learning (603/2495/8)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning (603/2498/3)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning (603/2496/X)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Supporting Teaching and Learning (Diploma) (610/4000/9)
- NCFE CACHE Level 4 Certificate for the Advanced Practitioner in Schools and Colleges (603/2474/0)
- a level 5 apprenticeship for specialist teaching assistant

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for more early years education and childcare qualifications.

Teaching assistant



Skills and behaviours required

To work as a teaching assistant you will need to demonstrate:

- active listening skills
- an ability to build and maintain professional relationships with children
- an ability to motivate learning and to cultivate the optimum conditions for learning
- an ability to guide children on how to do actions, tasks or activities
- an ability to understand the needs of children
- basic skills with a computer/hand-held device
- enthusiasm for working with children
- empathy, responsiveness, sensitivity and patience
- flexibility and openness to change
- that you can remain calm in a stressful situation
- that you can work effectively under pressure
- that you can work well with others
- verbal communication skills

Safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and other requirements

To work as a teaching assistant you may need to:

- pass an enhanced DBS check
- follow the national curriculum, strategies and techniques for enabling inclusive practice

Progression opportunities



From this role, it may be possible to progress to other roles within this field, for example, you could:

- focus on mentoring
- focus on providing extra support for particular subjects
- specialise in behaviour management
- specialise in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- take a level 5 apprenticeship
- train to become a higher-level teaching assistant (HLTA)
- train to become a qualified teacher

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for qualifications relevant to progression opportunities.

Montessori teacher



Type of provision: nursery, school

Common job titles:

- Montessori teacher



Role summary: as a Montessori teacher you will facilitate children from birth to five years to learn and develop in a setting that follows Montessori pedagogy and curriculum.

As a Montessori teacher you may:

- act as the key person for individual children
- act upon professional curiosity to keep children safe
- adhere to policies and procedures within the setting in accordance with the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework
- advocate for the individual needs of babies, children and their families
- establish and maintain professional relationships with others
- model high-quality interactions
- nurture dynamic, enabling environments both indoors and outdoors
- plan, lead and evaluate learning outcomes (LOs) to meet the individual needs and interests of children
- plan and lead on learning activities designed to facilitate development
- supervise a team
- support a team to prepare children for school, as part of their long-term progress

Recommended qualifications:

- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Montessori Pedagogy – Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3983/4)
- NCFE CACHE Level 4 Diploma in Early Years Montessori Pedagogy from Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (610/4160/9)

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for more early years education and childcare qualifications.

Skills and behaviours required

To work as a Montessori teacher you will need to demonstrate:

- an ability to facilitate playful, enabling and dynamic environments

Montessori teacher



- an ability to plan, lead and evaluate activities and experiences within the EYFS statutory framework
- competence in using a computer and various software packages
- empathy, responsiveness and sensitivity
- knowledge of the characteristics of effective teaching and learning
- patience
- that you are a reflective practitioner committed to continuing professional development (CPD)
- that you can accept feedback
- that you can remain calm in a stressful situation
- that you can work effectively under pressure
- the ability to monitor individual and team performance
- the ability to monitor your own performance

Safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and other requirements

To work as a Montessori teacher you will need to:

- pass an enhanced DBS check
- follow the EYFS statutory framework for groups and school-based providers



Montessori teacher



Progression opportunities



From this role, it may be possible to progress to other roles within early years education and childcare, for example, you could:

- undertake early years teacher status (EYTS) to meet the early years teachers' standards
- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 4 Certificate for the Early Years Advanced Practitioner (601/8424/3)
- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 4 Diploma in Early Years Montessori Pedagogy from Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (610/4160/9)
- progress to management (as a nursery manager, assistant headteacher or headteacher of a nursery)
- develop to become an area manager for a group of nurseries/schools
- set up as self-employed, running your own school or franchise (whether in the UK or overseas)
- teach others who want train for Montessori education
- become a teacher/early years practitioner in a school, using your knowledge of Montessori methods to inform your practices

Early years teacher status means you are qualified to teach children up to the age of five. To teach in a primary school, or to teach older children, you will usually need to achieve qualified teacher status (QTS).

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for qualifications relevant to progression opportunities.



Childminder



Type of provision: own home, school or community space

Common job titles:

- childminder



Role summary: as a childminder you will care for small groups of babies/children, working in partnership with parents and carers to customise care according to needs.

You may care for babies/children by offering day care/evening care provision dependent on need. You may provide childcare before/after school and during school holidays ('wraparound childcare'), and so the babies/children in your care can span a range of ages.

As a childminder, you may:

- take and collect babies/children to/from school or nursery
- facilitate dynamic indoor and outdoor learning environments for babies/children
- manage personal care routines for babies/children
- plan and lead engaging child-centred activities/experiences for babies/children
- record accidents and report any safety concerns
- safeguard and ensure babies'/children's welfare
- work in partnership with parents and carers to monitor progress and to support babies'/children's ongoing learning and development

Recommended qualifications:

- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Preparing to Work in Home Based Childcare (603/3642/0)

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for more early years education and childcare qualifications. You may not need any formal qualifications. Seek advice from your local authority or a childminding agency.

Skills and behaviours required

To work as a childminder you will need to demonstrate:

- an ability to facilitate playful, enabling and dynamic environments
- an ability to plan, lead and evaluate activities and experiences within the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework
- competence in using a computer and various software packages

Childminder



- knowledge of the characteristics of effective teaching and learning
- patience, empathy, responsiveness and sensitivity
- that you can accept feedback
- that you can remain calm in a stressful situation
- that you can work effectively under pressure
- the ability to monitor your own performance
- you are reflective and committed to continuing professional development (CPD)

Safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and other requirements

To work as a childminder you may need to:

- pass an enhanced DBS check
- complete a paediatric first aid course
- complete safeguarding (child protection) training
- complete a food safety qualification
- follow the EYFS statutory framework for childminders
- register with Ofsted or a Childminder Agency (CMA) to care for children below the age of eight for over two hours per day
- undergo an assessment of your home environment, including any equipment that will be used as part of the childcare provision



Childminder



Progression opportunities



From this role, it may be possible to progress to other roles within early years education and childcare, for example, you could:

- work across the early years workforce
- work as a teaching assistant
- train to teach childminding courses
- grow your business and employ additional staff
- support other childminders in your local area, working as a network co-ordinator
- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4588/3) or NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4587/1) to become an early years practitioner
- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3984/6)

As many childminders are self-employed, it can also be useful to learn about setting up a business, tax responsibilities and insurance responsibilities.

Visit [NCFE.org.uk](https://www.ncfe.org.uk) – **Sector Specialisms – Business admin and management** for information about relevant business-related courses available.

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for qualifications relevant to progression opportunities.



Nanny



Type of provision: child's own home

Common job titles:

- nanny



Role summary: as a nanny you will care for children, working in partnership with parents and carers to customise care according to needs. This role may or may not include meals and accommodation, depending on the contract set out by the family employing the nanny. Any individual planning to work as a nanny should look carefully at the pay and conditions being offered before any contract is signed.

As a nanny you may:

- broaden children's experiences, for example, by arranging outings and opportunities to mix with other children
- carry out personal care routines with babies and young children
- maintain a safe and secure environment
- monitor and record progress, communicating this with the family
- nurture social skills
- provide nutritious and healthy meals/snacks
- take and collect children to/from school and other clubs they may attend
- use creative play, games, reading and storytelling to facilitate development

Recommended qualifications:

- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Preparing to Work in Home Based Childcare (603/3642/0)

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for more early years education and childcare qualifications. You may not need any formal qualifications. Seek advice from your local authority or a nanny recruitment agency.

Skills and behaviours required

To work as a nanny you will need to demonstrate:

- an ability to facilitate playful, enabling and dynamic environments
- an ability to plan, lead and evaluate activities and experiences within the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework

Nanny



- competence in using a computer and various software packages
- empathy, responsiveness and sensitivity
- knowledge of the characteristics of effective teaching and learning
- patience
- that you are a reflective practitioner committed to continuing professional development (CPD)
- that you can accept feedback
- that you can remain calm in a stressful situation
- that you can work effectively under pressure
- the ability to monitor your own performance

Safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and other requirements

To work as a nanny you will need to:

- be over 18 years old
- complete a paediatric first aid certificate
- follow the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework for childminders
- pass an enhanced DBS check
- register with Ofsted

Progression opportunities



From this role, it may be possible to progress to other roles within early years education and childcare, for example, you could:

- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner (603/3723/0) to become an early years practitioner
- undertake NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) (610/4164/6) to become an early years educator
- undertake a teaching assistant qualification
- work as a childminder
- work within a nanny recruitment agency

Check out the **NCFE qualifications at a glance** section, at the end of this document, for qualifications relevant to progression opportunities.

NCFE early years education and childcare qualifications at a glance

Qualifications that meet Department for Education (DfE) criteria for counting in the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework staff:child ratios	
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner (603/3723/0)	Provides learners with the knowledge and understanding of babies and young children from birth to seven years of age with applied knowledge in the early years, birth to five years. The qualification content meets the Department for Education's (DfE) level 2 full and relevant criteria for a level 2 early years practitioner in the workforce.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4587/1)	Provides learners with the knowledge and understanding of babies and young children from birth to seven years, with applied knowledge in the early years (birth to five years).
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4588/3)	Provides learners with the knowledge and understanding of babies and young children from birth to seven years, with applied knowledge in the early years (birth to five years). Also provides introductory sector knowledge of professional practice to support wider contextual understanding of the early years practitioner route, and optional units that provide learners with transferable employability skills.
T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years (Level 3) (delivered by NCFE) (610/5748/4)	Ensures students have the knowledge and skills needed to progress into skilled employment or higher-level technical training relevant to early years education and childcare. The Early Years Educator (EYE) occupational specialism offers direct employment opportunities across the early years sector.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) (610/4164/6)	Prepares learners to become early years educators, enabling them to work with children from birth to five years and gain knowledge of children aged five to seven years. Upon achievement of this qualification, it is intended that learners will be able to enter the workforce as early years educators.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3984/6)	Prepares learners to become early years educators, enabling them to work with children from birth to five years and gain knowledge of children aged five to seven years. Upon achievement of this qualification, it is intended that learners will be able to enter the workforce as early years educators and be included in staff:child ratios.

Qualifications that meet Department for Education (DfE) criteria for counting in the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework staff:child ratios

<p>NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Montessori Pedagogy – Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3983/4)</p>	<p>Designed for learners who wish to become a Montessori educator, acting as a key person in a Montessori classroom. It may also be useful to learners studying qualifications in early years education and childcare.</p>
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma for the Early Years Senior Practitioner (610/4163/4)</p>	<p>Designed to support the development of leadership and management skills in early years and the knowledge and skills relating to early years practice.</p>



Level 1 and level 2 qualifications/units to support further learning and progression opportunities	
NCFE CACHE Level 1 Award in Introduction to Health and Social Care (Adults and Children and Young People), Early Years and Childcare (Wales) (601/5363/5)	Suitable for learners who are working, or wish to work, in the health and social care and early years education and childcare sectors. It is aimed at learners who wish to develop an understanding of these settings before deciding whether working in the sector is for them. It allows learners to gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required for employment and/or career progression in the sectors and to tailor their learning to their interests through the provision of a broad range of optional units. It provides opportunities for the development of transferable skills, supports progression to level 2 qualifications in health, social care or children's settings and provides learners with the opportunity to progress to employment, in due course, in a range of job roles in the care sectors.
NCFE CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Introduction to Health and Social Care (Adults and Children and Young People), Early Years and Childcare (Wales) (601/5364/7)	Suitable for learners who are working, or wish to work, in the health and social care and early years education and childcare sectors. It is aimed at learners who wish to develop an understanding of these settings before deciding whether working in the sector is for them. It allows learners to gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required for employment and/or career progression in the sectors and to tailor their learning to their interests through the provision of a broad range of optional units. It also provides opportunities for the development of transferable skills, supports progression to level 2 qualifications in health, social care or children's settings and provides learners with the opportunity to progress to employment, in due course, in a range of job roles in the care sectors.
NCFE CACHE Level 1 Diploma in Introduction to Health and Social Care (Adults and Children and Young People), Early Years and Childcare (Wales) (601/5365/9)	Suitable for learners who are working, or wish to work, in the health and social care and early years education and childcare sectors. It is aimed at learners who wish to develop an understanding of these settings before deciding whether working in the sector is for them. It allows learners to gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required for employment and/or career progression in the sectors and to tailor their learning to their interests through the provision of a broad range of optional units. It also provides opportunities for the development of transferable skills, supports progression to level 2 qualifications in health, social care or children's settings and provides learners with the opportunity to progress to employment, in due course, in a range of job roles in the care sectors.

Level 1 and level 2 qualifications/units to support further learning and progression opportunities	
NCFE CACHE Level 1 Award in Understanding Safeguarding in Education and Childcare Settings (603/5150/0)	Gives learners the knowledge and understanding of their legal responsibility to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and learners.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Health and Social Care and Early Years and Childcare Settings (600/2540/2)	Develops the knowledge and skills needed when working with food in health and social care and early years education and childcare settings. It covers food safety requirements, contributing to and/or promoting nutrition and hydration, and supporting individuals to eat and drink. This qualification will support learners towards an understanding of food safety in preparation for food hygiene qualifications. This qualification does not replace food hygiene certificates.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award in an Introduction to Neuroscience in Early Years (603/5216/4)	Provides an introduction to the early development of the brain in babies and young children from birth to seven years of age. It looks at how the social brain develops, the limbic system and self-regulation.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist in Neuroscience in Early Years (Award) (610/4570/6)	A technical specialist qualification designed to develop an increased understanding of neuroscience in early years. It covers exploration of brain development in relation to holistic growth with a particular focus on self-regulation and how to nurture this in children from birth to seven years. It also provides an opportunity for learners to acquire a number of practical and technical skills.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist for Designated Safeguarding Officers in Early Years (Award) (610/4504/4)	An additional specialist qualification providing learners with the knowledge and understanding of welfare and safeguarding requirements for babies and children in line with the early years statutory framework.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist in Early Years Nutrition (Award) (610/4517/2)	Designed for learners wishing to gain knowledge, skills and understanding of nutrition in an early years setting. This qualification builds on the outcomes within the early years practitioner occupational standard (ST0888).

Level 1 and level 2 qualifications/units to support further learning and progression opportunities	
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist for the Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator Assistant (Award) (610/4540/8)	An additional specialist qualification designed for those working as early years practitioners supporting the role of the early years special educational needs and/or disabilities co-ordinator (SENDCo). It explores how the SENDCo assistant works with babies, children, colleagues and others when supporting the SENDCo in an early years setting, in adherence to legislation and guidance. This qualification requires achievement of both knowledge and skills and builds on the outcomes within the early years practitioner occupational standard (ST0888).
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Common Childhood Illnesses (603/3115/X)	Aims to increase learners' knowledge and understanding of common childhood illnesses to enable them to support the development and wellbeing of infants and children they support/care for.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist in Adverse Childhood Experiences in Early Years (Certificate) (610/4567/6)	This additional specialist technical qualification (ASQ) will provide learners with an opportunity to develop an understanding of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) relevant to their current or future roles and will equip them with basic understanding of techniques for preventing and addressing ACEs in practice. It may also be useful to learners studying teaching and learning, and early years.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner (603/3723/0)	Provides learners with the knowledge and understanding of babies and young children from birth to seven years of age with applied knowledge in the early years, birth to five years. The qualification content meets the Department for Education's (DfE) level 2 full and relevant criteria for a level 2 early years practitioner in the workforce.
Early Years Practitioner (with Level 1 Functional Skills) (APP2690)	Provides opportunity to qualify as an early years practitioner. The following qualifications are part of the apprenticeship bundle: NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner (603/3723/0), NCFE Level 1 Functional Skills Qualification in Mathematics (603/5055/6), NCFE Level 1 Functional Skills Qualification in English (603/5058/1).
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4587/1)	Provides learners with the knowledge and understanding of babies and young children from birth to seven years, with applied knowledge in the early years (birth to five years).

Level 1 and level 2 qualifications/units to support further learning and progression opportunities	
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4588/3)	Provides learners with the knowledge and understanding of babies and young children from birth to seven years, with applied knowledge in the early years (birth to five years). Also provides introductory sector knowledge of professional practice to support wider contextual understanding of the early years practitioner route, and optional units that provide learners with transferable employability skills.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma in Playwork (610/0643/9)	Provides learners with the knowledge and understanding of the principles and theories that underpin playwork and the importance of play in children's lives aged 4 to 16 years. It covers the knowledge and skills needed when working under supervision and requires the learner to demonstrate the full application of knowledge and understanding over a period in the workplace. This qualification can also be undertaken as part of the Welsh Playwork Apprenticeship Framework. Apprenticeship information and the latest documents are available from Apprenticeship Certificate Wales. These should always be consulted to ensure that all mandatory qualifications, units, assessment, on-the-job hours and apprenticeship conditions are achieved and evidenced.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for Children's Care, Learning and Development (Northern Ireland) (603/4723/5)	Helps learners build the knowledge and skills needed when working with children. It covers a diverse range of job roles and occupational areas working in a children's setting. This qualification confirms competence in these areas and serves as the required qualification for all new practitioners for registration and regulatory requirements in Northern Ireland.

Level 3 qualifications/units to support further learning and progression opportunities	
Understand How to Set Up a Home Based Childcare Service (Y/600/9770 CYPOP5)	This level 3 unit will prepare learners to work as home-based child carers/childminders. It will provide knowledge of relevant aspects of childcare policies and procedures in relation to registration and the basic business skills to set up a home-based childcare service. Please be aware that Social Care Wales and Qualifications Wales decided that the unit will no longer qualify learners to practice as a childminder in Wales as of 19 August 2019.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Childcare and Education (601/3998/5)	Prepares learners to progress to a level 3 certificate in childcare and education and then on to a technical level 3 diploma in childcare and education (early years educator).
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Specialist in Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators in Early Years Settings (Award) (610/4001/0)	Designed to meet the needs of both learners aged 16 to 19 years and adult learners who are interested in developing additional specialist competence in an educational occupation and clearly aligns to Skills England's hierarchy of purpose. The qualification offers an engaging course of study and provides learners with the opportunity to specialise within an occupational area.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award for Special Educational Needs Coordinators in Early Years Settings (603/3476/9)	Explores the roles and responsibilities of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator in an early years setting. Learners will understand the strategies and techniques for supporting children and their families and increase their knowledge of special educational needs (SEN) codes of practice. The qualification aims to help learners to progress to further and higher education and develop new practical skills in health and social care.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Preparing to Work in Home Based Childcare (603/3642/0)	Developed in collaboration with the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (CORAMPACEY). This qualification prepares learners to set up a home-based childcare setting as a registered childminder.

Level 3 qualifications/units to support further learning and progression opportunities	
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork (603/7635/1)	Provides learners, who have experience and who are qualified at level 3 in working with children, with an understanding of the Playwork Principles and theories that underpin playwork practice. The qualification also aims to cover how applying the Playwork Principles and theories provides a framework that enables and supports children's play, and their overall development. It also offers an opportunity for reflection on the learner's own practice and supports progression to competence-based playwork qualifications.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Supporting Teaching and Learning (603/2495/8)	Provides learners with an understanding of the knowledge needed when working directly with children and young people in a school or college environment. It will enable learners to gain an understanding of elements including children and young people's development as well as safeguarding their welfare.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Understanding Playwork (610/0644/0)	Provides in-depth information about the role of the level 3 playworker, and the knowledge required to work with children between the ages of 4 and 16 years.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning (603/2498/3)	Provides learners with an understanding of the knowledge needed when working directly with children and young people in a school or college environment. It will enable learners to gain an understanding of elements including children and young people's development, safeguarding their welfare, and communication and professional relationships.
T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years (Level 3) (delivered by NCFE) (610/5748/4)	Ensures students have the knowledge and skills needed to progress into skilled employment or higher-level technical training relevant to early years education and childcare. The EYE occupational specialism offers direct employment opportunities across the early years sector.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) (610/4164/6)	Prepares learners to become early years educators, enabling them to work with children from birth to five years and gain knowledge of children aged five to seven years. Upon achievement of this qualification, it is intended that learners will be able to enter the workforce as early years educators.

Level 3 qualifications/units to support further learning and progression opportunities	
Early Years Educator Apprenticeship (with Functional Skills) (without First Aid) (APP2161)	The NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator) (610/4164/6) within this apprenticeship bundle maps to the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) within the Early Years Educator occupational standard ST0135 in England.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3984/6)	Prepares learners to become early years educators, enabling them to work with children from birth to five years and gain knowledge of children aged five to seven years. Upon achievement of this qualification, it is intended that learners will be able to enter the workforce as early years educators and be included in staff:child ratios.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Montessori Pedagogy – Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3983/4)	Designed for learners who wish to become a Montessori educator, acting as a key person in a Montessori classroom. It may also be useful to learners studying qualifications in early years education and childcare.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) (601/4852/4)	Develops the knowledge and skills needed when working with children and young people in a residential childcare setting, including an understanding of child and young person development. The qualification enables the learner to gain essential skills and knowledge to support children and young people in residential childcare settings, including wellbeing and resilience, positive relationships and attachments, health and safety, sexual exploitation, communication, positive behaviour and positive outcomes. It also offers the learner the opportunity to cover optional topics which are particularly suited to specific residential childcare and respite care settings.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning (603/2496/X)	Provides learners with an in-depth understanding of the knowledge and skills needed when working directly with children and young people in school and college environments. It covers all aspects of specialist support including planning, delivering and reviewing assessment strategies to support learning alongside the teacher, bilingual support, special needs support, and personal development and reflective practice.

Level 3 qualifications/units to support further learning and progression opportunities	
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (610/0645/2)	<p>Provides in-depth information about the role of the level 3 playworker. The diploma covers the knowledge and skills needed when working unsupervised and requires the learner to demonstrate these in the workplace. It is aimed at experienced playworkers who have an appreciation of the Playwork Principles and practice. This qualification can also be undertaken as part of the Welsh Playwork Apprenticeship Framework. Apprenticeship information and the latest documents are available from Apprenticeship Certificate Wales. These should always be consulted to ensure that all mandatory qualifications, units, assessment, on-the-job hours and apprenticeship conditions are achieved and evidenced.</p>
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Supporting Teaching and Learning (Diploma) (610/4000/9)	<p>Provides learners with an in-depth understanding of the knowledge and skills needed when working directly with children and young people in school and college environments. It covers all aspects of specialist support, including planning, delivering and reviewing assessment strategies to support learning alongside the teacher, bilingual support, special needs support, and personal development and reflective practice. This qualification is mapped against the following occupational standard ST0454: Teaching Assistant (Level 3) Version 1.1.</p>
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Children's Care, Learning and Development (Northern Ireland) (603/6039/2)	<p>Helps learners build the knowledge and skills needed when working with children. It covers a diverse range of job roles and occupational areas working in children's settings including early years. Learners qualified at level 3 may work as room supervisors/team leaders or deputise for the leader working under the supervision of the manager. The qualification confers occupational competence for childcare, learning and development in Northern Ireland.</p>

Level 3 qualifications/units
to support further learning and progression opportunities

NCFE CACHE Level 3
Extended Diploma for
Children's Care Learning and
Development (Northern
Ireland) (603/7477/9)

Provides learners with underpinning knowledge and skills needed when working with children. It covers a diverse range of job roles and occupational areas in children's settings, including early years. The qualification then builds on this knowledge and provides extended knowledge and skills to further learners understanding and provide a stepping stone into higher education. The NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Children's Care, Learning and Development (Northern Ireland) (603/6039/2) sits within this qualification. Successful achievement of the diploma units will confirm competence in these areas and serve as the required qualification for all new practitioners for registration and regulatory requirements in Northern Ireland.



<p align="center">Level 4 and level 5 qualifications/units to support further learning and progression opportunities</p>	
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 4 Award in Early Years Emotional Wellbeing (610/1707/3)</p>	<p>Designed for learners who wish to increase their knowledge and understanding of emotional wellbeing in early years settings. They will examine the influence of families and practitioners on children’s emotional wellbeing and promote the importance of supportive practice.</p>
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 4 Award in Promoting Health and Well-being Through Physical Activity and Nutrition Co-ordination in the Early Years (603/5239/5)</p>	<p>Designed for learners to examine the benefits of physical activity and the importance of diet to the health and wellbeing of babies, children and their families. This qualification will support learners through a reflective cycle of continuous improvement to practice in own setting. They will work with staff, parents and carers, and other professionals, to make positive change for the health of babies and children, in the role of a Physical Activity and Nutrition Co-ordinator (PANCo).</p>
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 4 Award in Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Leadership and Management in the Early Years (603/4888/4)</p>	<p>Offers continuing professional development (CPD) and is aimed at level 3 early years practitioners in a private, voluntary or independent setting. The qualification is designed for those already working in a lead Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) role as an early years practitioner and who wish to increase confidence in relation to leadership and management progression. Learners will be prepared for leadership and management in specific aspects of the SENCo role.</p>
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 4 Certificate for the Early Years Advanced Practitioner (601/8424/3)</p>	<p>Covers the age range from birth to five years and includes enabling children to learn, promoting health and wellbeing, special educational needs and working with families implementing change. Learners will develop and use skills of leadership, mentoring, coaching and reflection as they complete the qualification through work-based learning opportunities.</p>
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 4 Certificate for the Advanced Practitioner in Schools and Colleges (603/2474/0)</p>	<p>Provides professional development opportunities for practitioners working in the school and college workforce. This qualification will embrace the wealth of experience, proven knowledge and skills of the learner in a teaching and learning environment. It will challenge the learner in both daily practice and theoretical understanding. Learners will acquire and use skills of leadership, mentoring, coaching and reflection as they complete the qualification through work-based learning opportunities.</p>

Level 4 and level 5 qualifications/units to support further learning and progression opportunities	
NCFE CACHE Level 4 Diploma in Early Years Montessori Pedagogy from Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (610/4160/9)	Designed for learners to develop an increased understanding of Montessori pedagogy in early years. It covers a number of topics exploring Montessori in a learning environment. It also provides an opportunity for learners to acquire a number of practical and technical skills. This qualification confirms competence in an occupational role and learners are required to demonstrate the full application of knowledge and understanding over a period of time in the workplace.
NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma for the Early Years Senior Practitioner (610/4163/4)	Supports the development of leadership and management skills in early years and the knowledge and skills relating to early years practice.
NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare (England) (601/4845/7)	Provides the skills and knowledge needed to manage practice and lead others in residential childcare settings for children and young people. The qualification enables the learner to gain essential skills and knowledge for leading in a residential childcare setting, including leading and managing a team, leading and managing group living, leading practice to support children and young people, and implementing policies and procedures. It also offers the learner the opportunity to cover optional topics which are particularly suited to specific residential childcare and respite care settings.
NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Advanced Playwork (Wales) (Practitioner) (601/5370/2/PRAC)	Aimed at those working at a minimum of level 3 (unsupervised) in a variety of playwork settings, who wish to develop new skills and progress their career to a higher level within playwork settings. This qualification is available to study in Welsh. Please see the Welsh translated Qualification Specification, which is available to download. There will also be the option to select the certificate language when claiming certificates via the NCFE Portal.
NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Advanced Playwork (Wales) (Manager) (601/5370/2/MAN)	Aimed at those working at a minimum of level 3 (unsupervised) in a variety of playwork settings, who wish to develop new skills and progress their career to a higher level within playwork settings. This qualification is available to study in Welsh. Please see the Welsh translated Qualification Specification, which is available to download. There will also be the option to select the certificate language when claiming certificates via the NCFE Portal.

Montessori-focused qualifications	
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in Montessori Pedagogy – Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3983/4)</p>	<p>Designed for learners who wish to become a Montessori educator, acting as a key person in a Montessori classroom. It may also be useful to learners studying qualifications in early years education and childcare.</p>
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 4 Diploma in Early Years Montessori Pedagogy from Birth to Seven (Early Years Educator) (610/4160/9)</p>	<p>Designed for learners to develop an increased understanding of Montessori pedagogy in early years. It covers a number of topics exploring Montessori in a learning environment. It also provides an opportunity for learners to acquire a number of practical and technical skills. This qualification confirms competence in an occupational role and learners are required to demonstrate the full application of knowledge and understanding over a period of time in the workplace.</p>



Playwork-focused qualifications	
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma in Playwork (610/0643/9)	<p>Provides learners with the knowledge and understanding of the principles and theories that underpin playwork and the importance of play in children's lives aged 4 to 16 years. It covers the knowledge and skills needed when working under supervision and requires the learner to demonstrate the full application of knowledge and understanding over a period in the workplace. This qualification can also be undertaken as part of the Welsh Playwork Apprenticeship Framework. Apprenticeship information and the latest documents are available from Apprenticeship Certificate Wales. These should always be consulted to ensure that all mandatory qualifications, units, assessment, on-the-job hours and apprenticeship conditions are achieved and evidenced.</p>
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork (603/7635/1)	<p>Provides learners who have experience, and who are qualified at level 3 in working with children, with an understanding of the Playwork Principles and theories that underpin playwork practice. The qualification also aims to cover how applying the Playwork Principles and theories provides a framework that enables and supports children's play, and their overall development. It also offers an opportunity for reflection on the learner's own practice and supports progression to competence-based playwork qualifications.</p>
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Understanding Playwork (610/0644/0)	<p>Provides in-depth information about the role of the level 3 playworker, and the knowledge required to work with children between the ages of 4 and 16 years.</p>
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (610/0645/2)	<p>This qualification provides in-depth information about the role of the level 3 playworker. The diploma covers the knowledge and skills needed when working unsupervised and requires the learner to demonstrate these in the workplace. It is aimed at experienced playworkers who have an appreciation of the Playwork Principles and practice. This qualification can also be undertaken as part of the Welsh Playwork Apprenticeship Framework. Apprenticeship information and the latest documents are available from Apprenticeship Certificate Wales. These should always be consulted to ensure that all mandatory qualifications, units, assessment, on-the-job hours and apprenticeship conditions are achieved and evidenced.</p>

Playwork-focused qualifications	
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Advanced Playwork (Wales) (Practitioner) (601/5370/2/PRAC)</p>	<p>Aimed at those working at a minimum of level 3 (unsupervised) in a variety of playwork settings, who wish to develop new skills and progress their career to a higher level within playwork settings. This qualification is available to study in Welsh. Please see the Welsh translated Qualification Specification, which is available to download. There will also be the option to select the certificate language when claiming certificates via the NCFE Portal.</p>
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Advanced Playwork (Wales) (Manager) (601/5370/2/MAN)</p>	<p>Aimed at those working at a minimum of level 3 (unsupervised) in a variety of playwork settings, who wish to develop new skills and progress their career to a higher level within playwork settings. This qualification is available to study in Welsh. Please see the Welsh translated Qualification Specification, which is available to download. There will also be the option to select the certificate language when claiming certificates via the NCFE Portal.</p>



Qualifications linked to specialisms within early years education and childcare	
Food safety and nutrition, including Physical Activity and Nutrition Co-ordinator (PANCo)	
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Health and Social Care and Early Years and Childcare Settings (600/2540/2)	Develops the knowledge and skills needed when working with food in health and social care and early years education and childcare settings. It covers food safety requirements, contributing to and/or promoting nutrition and hydration, and supporting individuals to eat and drink. This qualification will support learners towards an understanding of food safety in preparation for food hygiene qualifications. This qualification does not replace food hygiene certificates.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist in Early Years Nutrition (Award) (610/4517/2)	Designed for learners wishing to gain knowledge, skills and understanding of nutrition in an early years setting. This qualification builds on the outcomes within the early years practitioner occupational standard. (ST0888).
NCFE CACHE Level 4 Award in Promoting Health and Well-being Through Physical Activity and Nutrition Co-ordination in the Early Years (603/5239/5)	Designed for learners to examine the benefits of physical activity and the importance of diet to the health and wellbeing of babies, children and their families. This qualification will support learners through a reflective cycle of continuous improvement to practice in own setting. They will work with staff, parents and carers, and other professionals, to make positive change for the health of babies and children, in the role of a Physical Activity and Nutrition Co-ordinator (PANCo).
Home-based childcare	
Understand How to Set Up a Home Based Childcare Service (Y/600/9770 CYPOP5)	This level 3 unit will prepare learners to work as home-based child carers/childminders. It will provide knowledge of relevant aspects of childcare policies and procedures in relation to registration and the basic business skills to set up a home-based childcare service. Please be aware that Social Care Wales and Qualifications Wales recently decided that the unit will no longer qualify learners to practice as a childminder in Wales.
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Preparing to Work in Home Based Childcare (603/3642/0)	Developed in collaboration with the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years (CORAMPACEY). This qualification prepares learners to set up a home-based childcare setting as a registered childminder.

Qualifications linked to specialisms within early years education and childcare	
Illness and emotional wellbeing	
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Common Childhood Illnesses (603/3115/X)	Aims to increase learners' knowledge and understanding of common childhood illnesses to enable them to support the development and wellbeing of infants and children they support/care for.
NCFE CACHE Level 4 Award in Early Years Emotional Wellbeing (610/1707/3)	Designed for learners who wish to increase their knowledge and understanding of emotional wellbeing in early years settings. They will examine the influence of families and practitioners on children's emotional wellbeing and promote the importance of supportive practice.
Neuroscience	
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award in an Introduction to Neuroscience in Early Years (603/5216/4)	Provides an introduction to the early development of the brain in babies and young children from birth to seven years of age. It looks at how the social brain develops, the limbic system and self-regulation.
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist in Neuroscience in Early Years (Award) (610/4570/6)	A technical specialist qualification designed to develop an increased understanding of neuroscience in early years. It covers exploration of brain development in relation to holistic growth with a particular focus on self-regulation and how to nurture this in children from birth to seven years. It also provides an opportunity for learners to acquire a number of practical and technical skills.
Residential childcare	
NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) (601/4852/4)	Develops the knowledge and skills needed when working with children and young people in a residential childcare setting, including an understanding of child and young person development. The qualification enables the learner to gain essential skills and knowledge to support children and young people in residential childcare settings, including wellbeing and resilience, positive relationships and attachments, health and safety, sexual exploitation, communication, positive behaviour and positive outcomes. It also offers the learner the opportunity to cover optional topics which are particularly suited to specific residential childcare and respite care settings.

Qualifications linked to specialisms within early years education and childcare	
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare (England) (601/4845/7)</p>	<p>Provides the skills and knowledge needed to manage practice and lead others in residential childcare settings for children and young people. The qualification enables the learner to gain essential skills and knowledge for leading in a residential childcare setting, including leading and managing a team, leading and managing group living, leading practice to support children and young people, and implementing policies and procedures. It also offers the learner the opportunity to cover optional topics which are particularly suited to specific residential childcare and respite care settings.</p>
Safeguarding	
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 1 Award in Understanding Safeguarding in Education and Childcare Settings (603/5150/0)</p>	<p>Gives learners the knowledge and understanding of their legal responsibility to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and learners.</p>
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist for Designated Safeguarding Officers in Early Years (Award) (610/4504/4)</p>	<p>An additional specialist qualification providing learners with the knowledge and understanding of welfare and safeguarding requirements for babies and children in line with the early years statutory framework.</p>
Special educational needs and/or disabilities co-ordinator (SENDCo)	
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Specialist for the Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator Assistant (Award) (610/4540/8)</p>	<p>An additional specialist qualification designed for those working as early years practitioners supporting the role of the early years special educational needs and/or disabilities co-ordinator (SENDCo). It explores how the SENDCo assistant works with babies, children, colleagues and others when supporting the SENDCo in an early years setting, in adherence to legislation and guidance. This qualification requires achievement of both knowledge and skills and builds on the outcomes within the early years practitioner occupational standard (ST0888).</p>

Qualifications linked to specialisms within early years education and childcare	
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Specialist in Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators in Early Years Settings (Award) (610/4001/0)</p>	<p>Designed to meet the needs of both learners aged 16 to 19 years and adult learners who are interested in developing additional specialist competence in an educational occupation and clearly aligns to Skills England’s hierarchy of purpose. The qualification offers an engaging course of study and provides learners with the opportunity to specialise within an occupational area.</p>
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award for Special Educational Needs Coordinators in Early Years Settings (603/3476/9)</p>	<p>Explores the roles and responsibilities of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator in an early years setting. Learners will understand the strategies and techniques for supporting children and their families and increase their knowledge of special educational needs (SEN) codes of practice. The qualification aims to help learners to progress to further and higher education and develop new practical skills in health and social care.</p>
<p>NCFE CACHE Level 4 Award in Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Leadership and Management in the Early Years (603/4888/4)</p>	<p>Offers continuing professional development (CPD) and is aimed at level 3 early years practitioners in a private, voluntary or independent setting. The qualification is designed for those already working in a lead Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) role as an early years practitioner and who wish to increase confidence in relation to leadership and management progression. Learners will be prepared for leadership and management in specific aspects of the SENCo role.</p>



Qualifications for leadership/management	
Understand How to Set Up a Home Based Childcare Service (Y/600/9770 CYPOP5)	This unit will prepare learners to work as home-based child carers/childminders. It will provide knowledge of relevant aspects of childcare policies and procedures in relation to registration and the basic business skills to set up a home-based childcare service. Please be aware that Social Care Wales and Qualifications Wales recently decided that the unit will no longer qualify learners to practice as a childminder in Wales.
NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma for the Early Years Senior Practitioner (610/4163/4)	Designed to support the development of leadership and management skills in early years and the knowledge and skills relating to early years practice.
NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Residential Childcare (England) (601/4845/7)	Provides the skills and knowledge needed to manage practice and lead others in residential childcare settings for children and young people. The qualification enables the learner to gain essential skills and knowledge for leading in a residential childcare setting, including leading and managing a team, leading and managing group living, leading practice to support children and young people, and implementing policies and procedures. It also offers the learner the opportunity to cover optional topics which are particularly suited to specific residential childcare and respite care settings.



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*to continue to improve our levels of customer service, telephone calls may be recorded for training and quality purposes.

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