

Qualification Factsheet

Qualification overview

Qualification title	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (Diploma)		
Qualification number (QN)	610/3984/6		
Total qualification time (TQT)	950	Guided learning hours (GLH)	Total: 864 GLH (includes 300 work/placement hours)
Entry requirements	<p>Learners must be at least 19 years old. Registration is at the discretion of the centre in accordance with equality legislation and should be made on the NCFE Portal.</p> <p>There are no specific prior skills or knowledge a learner must have for this qualification. However, learners may find it helpful if they have already achieved a previous level 2 qualification that is full and relevant or holds transferable skills preparing learners to study at level 3.</p>		

About this qualification

The aim of this qualification is to prepare learners to become early years educators, enabling them to work with children from birth to five years and gain knowledge of children aged 5 to 7 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 to child ratios.

In response to the Department for Education (DfE), we have built a qualification to meet the criteria required for those wishing to become early years educators.

We have surpassed the minimum requirements set out in the 'full and relevant criteria' to develop a qualification that reflects the priorities of educators and employers to meet the needs of babies and children.

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.

This qualification also maps to the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) within the Early Years Educator occupational standard ST0135 in England.

This qualification aims to:

- focus on the study of early years education
- offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a key core of knowledge
- provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills

Qualification structure

To be awarded this qualification, learners are required to successfully achieve 10 mandatory units/95 credits.

Mandatory units

L3WF 1 Introduction to the role of the early years educator (H/651/0792)
L3WF 2 Holistic child development (L/651/0795)
L3WF 3 Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) (T/651/0798)
L3WF 4 Effective communication in an early years setting (K/651/0801)
L3WF 5 Safeguarding and welfare requirements (Y/651/0806)
L3WF 6 Health, wellbeing and safety (L/651/0811)
L3WF 7 Promoting an effective early years curriculum (T/651/0814)
L3WF 8 Assessment of children's learning and development (A/651/0816)
L3WF 9 Understanding play for learning and holistic development (L/651/0820)
L3WF 10 Partnership working (Y/651/0824)

Assessment

This qualification is internally assessed and externally quality assured.

The assessment consists of one component:

- an internally assessed portfolio of evidence, which is assessed by centre staff and externally quality assured by NCFE (internal quality assurance must still be completed by the centre as usual)

Learners must be successful in this component to gain the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (Diploma) (610/3984/6).

The assessment methods for the skills-based criteria should include:

- direct observation** of the learner in work placement/employment (**it is essential to include observations**)
- professional discussions**
- reflective accounts**
- expert witness testimonies** from a lead practitioner and accompanied by professional discussion (where required) to triangulate the evidence (only to be used when observation would not be appropriate)
- work products**, for example, policies, reports and records that can be used to underpin or move a professional discussion forward

Skills-based outcomes must be achieved in work placement/employment and in accordance with assessment principles, they are typically achieved throughout the duration of the programme of study to allow for increasing confidence and competence in practice. Simulation may be permitted for some skills-based outcomes, centres should refer to the delivery and assessment guidance within each unit for further details.

Learners who are not successful can resubmit work within the registration period; however, a charge may apply in cases where additional external quality assurance visits are required.

Placement requirements

This qualification requires learners to complete a minimum of **300** hours of mandatory work/industry placement experience throughout the duration of the qualification, before certification. It is recommended that learners undertake **350** hours where possible.

Progression opportunities

Learners who achieve this qualification could progress to the following:

- employment:
 - educator in day nurseries
 - educator in nursery schools
 - educator in reception classes in primary schools
 - pre-school worker
- further education:
 - level 4 early years and childcare qualifications
- higher education – personal statements may be accepted by universities



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