



Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator)

Location	Cheadle College
Course Type	Adult
Department	Childcare & Education
Start Date	Monday 2nd November 2026
Duration	Part-time, 1 Year
Time	17:30:00 - 21:00:00
Fee	£ 4730.00 You may be eligible for support with your tuition fees - please visit the college website - funding and finance page for further information
Course Code	CPQ-AY3D-1400

Course Overview

This Early Years Educator course is designed to ignite your passion for nurturing the growth and development of our youngest learners. The aim of this qualification is to contribute to the skills, knowledge and overall performance of Childcare workers. It provides an insight into the principles of care and legislation of the Childcare sector and will aid career development.

The competence-based qualification is designed for those people who:

- are involved in Childcare as their primary work activity
- are seeking a career in Childcare and wish to take the first steps towards professional qualifications
- wish to gain recognition of their skills and experience in the Childcare sector

Course Requirements

All prospective learners are required to undergo an informal interview and complete a skills scan and initial assessment as part of the enrolment process. Students will need to possess either GCSE in maths and English A-C/ 4+ or functional skills level 2

What You Will Learn

Throughout this course, you will delve into the fundamental principles of children's early years education and development, gaining a deep understanding of the importance of fostering a nurturing and supportive environment for young learners. You will learn how to effectively implement the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, ensuring holistic development across all domains. Embracing diversity, equality, and inclusion, you will explore strategies for creating inclusive early years settings that celebrate and respect every child's unique background and abilities. Through hands-on activities and reflective practice, you will master the art of planning and delivering effective teaching and learning experiences that cater to the individual needs of children. Moreover, you will acquire the skills to make accurate and productive use of assessment techniques, guiding your practice to promote continuous improvement and child progress. Developing effective and informed professional practice will be emphasized, empowering you to reflect on your role, responsibilities, and ongoing professional development within early years settings. Additionally, you will gain insights into promoting the health, safety, and well-being of children, as well as understanding the crucial aspects of child protection and safeguarding partnership working. By the end of this course, you will be equipped with the confidence and competence to make a positive impact on the lives of young children and their families, ensuring a bright and promising future for the next generation.

Assessment

Students will complete a competence-based assessment and produce a portfolio, that include assignments and practical assessments. All units will be internally assessed using a range of methods. Skills based outcomes must be achieved, with reference to a real work environment and must include direct observation within the workplace.

Placement requirements: Students will need to be working, volunteering or on practical placement to show competence in both knowledge and skills. We recommend students complete 250 placement hours, whilst undertaking this qualification. Placement opportunity must allow for skills application with babies and young children, sufficient to meet the assessment criteria for the qualification.

Progression

Successful Learners may progress to a Level 4 in FE or HE.

Career Options

- Pre-school worker
- Practitioner in Nursery schools
- Practitioner in day nurseries
- Practitioner in reception classes in primary schools.

Additionally, learners will also be eligible for inclusion in the Level 3 staff-to-child ratio within a childcare setting.

Mandatory Units

- Understand Children's Early Years Education and Development
- Implementing Early Years Foundation Stage
- Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in Early Years Settings
- Plan and Provide Effective Teaching and Learning in Early Years Settings
- Make Accurate and Productive Use of Assessment in Early Years Settings
- Develop Effective and Informed Professional Practice in Early Years Settings
- Promote the Health, Safety and Well-being of Children in Early Years Settings
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Partnership Working in Early Years
- Optional: Depending upon the setting.

Contact Details

For further information please contact T: 0161 886 7070 or E: info@trafford.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.