



New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4)

If you have experience in the care and education of young children, this programme will enable you to gain formal recognition for your skills and progress your ECE career. You will learn how to educate and care for infants and young children in homebased settings, education and care centres and playgroups within New Zealand. You will also need to volunteer or work within a licenced Early Childhood Education service for three hours per week.

Qualification code NZ2850	
Level > 4	Credits > 60
Workload >	Allow 10 hours of study per credit. Your workload may be higher around assessment due dates
Study type >	Open.
Cost >	See the qualification page on the website.
Student loan >	You can get a student loan for this qualification if you meet the criteria. Visit studylink.govt.nz for more information.

Career Opportunities

This qualification will prepare you for a career as a homebased educator or as an educator working alongside registered teachers in early childhood education centres. You may also find employment as a nanny, an educator in hospital-based services, as a certificated playgroup coordinator, in puna reo, if you speak Māori, or in other language immersion settings if you are a speaker of another language.

How to apply

Go to the choose courses tab on the qualification page on our website. If you are enrolling in this qualification for the first time, select EDU403 Early Childhood Practice for Young Children's Wellbeing and click add to enrolment plan.

Qualification structure

This programme is made up of three compulsory courses.

Course Code	Course Name	Credits
EDU403	Early Childhood Practice for Young Children's Wellbeing	20
EDU404	Understanding Young Children's Learning and Development	20
EDU405	Professional Practice for Early Childhood Education and Care	20

Entry requirements

To enrol in this programme you need to have NCEA Level 2, or equivalent, and be a minimum of 17 years of age at the start of the programme.

You also need to:

- complete the New Zealand Police Vetting Service Request and Consent form downloaded from the Open Polytechnic website
- provide the name, email address and phone number of two people who know you in a professional capacity and have agreed to provide a confidential report in support of your application. We can contact your referees by email or you can download a form on their behalf.

20 Years old or over

If you are 20 years of age or over and do not hold the minimum entry requirements you will be eligible to be enrolled where your previous educational, work or life experience indicates you have a reasonable likelihood of success.

What you will learn

When you achieve this qualification you will have the skills and knowledge to:

- Implement socio cultural theories of learning and development to inform the holistic learning and development of tamariki
- Use the bi-cultural New Zealand Early Childhood Curriculum Te Whāriki as a framework for planning, implementing and reviewing enriching learning experiences for infants, toddlers and young children from diverse cultural backgrounds
- Contribute to culturally inclusive early childhood environments that nurture the holistic, health, wellbeing and care of infants, toddlers and young children
- effectively communicate and engage in respectful, reciprocal and responsive relationship within an early childhood education and care community manage personal health, wellbeing and professional development in an early childhood setting
- demonstrate an understanding of legislation, early childhood regulations, and the role of government and community service in guiding ECE practices that protect and support the wellbeing of children and families
- demonstrate an understanding of philosophical and cultural contexts and approaches that inform early childhood education in Aotearoa New Zealand and the development of a personal philosophy of practice
- implement bicultural early ECE practice that promotes awareness of Māori as tangata whenua, through the use of te reo Māori and tikanga Māori with infants toddlers and young children and their families/whānau in early childhood settings.

English language requirements

International students must also have an IELTS (Academic) score of 5.5 with no band score lower than 5.0, or equivalent.

Domestic students for whom English or Māori is not their first language must also have an IELTS (Academic) score of 5.5 with no band score lower than 5.0, or equivalent.

Visit openpolytechnic.ac.nz/englishlanguage to view our English language criteria.

Computer and online access

To complete this programme you will need access to a laptop or desktop computer, reliable broadband internet connection and a data plan able to support online learning such as streaming of videos (including YouTube), downloading content, and writing and submitting online assessments. If you are unsure if your current computer or internet access allows you to complete your online learning with us, please contact us before applying to enrol.

Visit openpolytechnic.ac.nz/online to view our online learning and study tools.

Workplace component

There is a practical workplace component for each course requiring you to attend an early childhood setting for a minimum of 3 hours a week in one of the following types of New Zealand settings:

- licensed early childhood centre
- licensed home-based setting affiliated to a home-base service or nanny provider
- certificated playgroup setting recognised for funding purposes by the Ministry of Education or Ministry of Health. These will be programmes with a focus on supporting families/whānau and young children

You need to tell us the name of the ECE service where you will be doing your practical work during the online enrolment process.

International students and domestic students living overseas

You can study this programme part-time if you're an international student living in New Zealand or overseas. If you're living in New Zealand you will need to be in paid employment with a valid work permit.

You cannot study this programme if you're an international student living overseas, or a New Zealand citizen living overseas.

Learn more about studying as an international student openpolytechnic.ac.nz/study-with-us/distance-learning-with-us/international-students