

**NCFE**

**CACHE**

# Purpose statement

**NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General  
Certificate for Early Years, Childcare and  
Education  
QN: 603/2988/9**

## **Purpose Statement**

### **Who is this qualification for?**

The Level 3 Applied General Certificate for Early Years, Childcare and Education is equivalent in size and rigour to an A Level and as such contributes to entry requirements for Higher Education. It is aimed at post 16 year olds studying a Key Stage 5 curriculum with an interest in childcare and early years contexts. This qualification is ideal for learners wanting to develop their knowledge and understanding in areas such as the role of the childcare practitioner, human development, relevant legislation and frameworks, and play and learning.

This qualification has been designed to meet the characteristics for inclusion in the Department for Education (DfE)'s 16-19 performance tables. The characteristics indicate the qualification's quality and rigour.

It has been designed to sit within a study programme complementing A Levels and other Level 3 subjects.

This qualification aims to:

- focus on the applied study of childcare, early years and education
- offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a significant core of knowledge and theoretical content with broad-ranging applicability from which theory and concept can be explored, analysed and theorized.

The objectives of this qualification are to help learners to:

- progress to further and higher education
- develop knowledge and skills in early years, childcare and education.

All units within this qualification are vocationally based. This qualification will take approximately two years to complete.

There are no specific recommended prior learning requirements for this qualification. However, you may find it helpful if you've already achieved a Level 2 qualification.

### **What will the learner study as part of this qualification?**

This qualification will provide learners with a theoretical base from which knowledge and understanding of theory and concept can be applied, explored and established.

Learners will need to complete five mandatory units:

- Unit 01: The role of the early years, childcare and education practitioner
- Unit 02: Human development from conception to 19 years
- Unit 03: Key legislation, policy and procedures
- Unit 04: Statutory educational frameworks
- Unit 05: Play and learning.

In addition to these, learners will need to complete two external assessments, a scenario based short answer examination and an extended written assignment taken under controlled supervision.

### **What knowledge and skills will the learner develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?**

In this qualification learners will develop an understanding of:

- diverse settings and the role of the childcare professional
- roles, responsibilities, skills and attributes for working in childcare settings
- types and functions of childcare services
- significant milestones and relevant theories related to human development
- educational frameworks and how they are applied to optimise positive outcomes for children and young people
- relevant legislation and statutory guidance
- approaches to play and the impact of play on learning, well-being and development.

This core knowledge represents a sound basis for progression to further studies in related areas. In this qualification learners will develop practical skills and techniques in:

- teamwork and partnership building
- professional and personal development
- communication
- evaluation
- research
- analysis
- reflection.

These underpinning, transferrable skills will benefit learners if they choose to progress to further or higher education.

### **Why should learners take this particular qualification?**

Learners should take this qualification if they wish to progress to higher education from a general education route, developing their range of knowledge in child development, education and care.

There are other related Level 3 qualifications offered by NCFE CACHE, though they follow a more vocational route:

#### **Technical Level 3 Certificate in Childcare and Education**

This Certificate is suitable if learners wish to work towards a career in early years education and care or progress to higher education in a related field. This Certificate is ideal if learners wish to progress onto the Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education as it shares eight mandatory units with this Diploma.

#### **Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator)**

The Diploma is suitable if learners wish to progress to higher education in a related field of study or work as an Early Years Educator. This Diploma is ideal if learners have already completed the Technical Level 3 Certificate in Childcare and Education as it includes the Certificate's eight mandatory units.

### **Technical Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator)**

This Diploma is suitable if learners wish to progress to higher education, preparing learners to become Early Years Educators, enabling them to work with children from birth to five years and gain knowledge of children aged up to seven years. This qualification is also suitable if learners wish to work as an Early Years Educator.

### **Progression opportunities - what could this qualification lead to?**

Successful completion of this qualification will assist learners to progress to Level 4 qualifications in related subjects such as Children and Young People, Early Years Educator, Health and Social Care, Supporting Teaching and Learning or Playwork.

Learners could also progress to a Children and Young People's Apprenticeship. These Apprenticeships are suitable if learners wish to go through a structured training programme that teaches all aspects of caring for children and young people, working alongside experienced staff to learn the skills learners need in an area, which can lead to secure employment upon completion.

The Level 3 Applied General Certificate for Early Years, Childcare and Education fulfils entry requirements for a range of higher education courses, which learners could go on to study Foundation Degrees or Degrees in subjects such as:

- BA/FdA Childhood Studies
- BA/FdA Childhood Studies with Practitioner Status
- FdA Community, Youth and Families
- BA Youth, Community and Families.

### **Which subjects will complement this course?**

The following qualifications and subject areas will complement this course:

- Level 3 Applied General Award and Certificate in Health and Social Care
- Technical Level 3 Certificate and Extended Diploma in Childcare and Education
- Level 3 Certificate and Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning qualifications
- Level 3 Certificate and Diploma in Playwork.

Learners can study this qualification alongside A Levels as part of a Level 3 Study Programme.

### **Who supports this qualification?**

The following Higher Education Institutions recognise this qualification for entry to a higher level course or qualification:

- University College Birmingham
- University of Chichester
- University of East Anglia
- University of Bedfordshire
- University of Huddersfield
- University of Northampton.

**If there are larger and or smaller versions of this qualification within the suite or if it is available at different skill levels, why should a learner take this particular one?**

This qualification also embeds learning at an Award stage (182 GLH). This allows learners to stop after the completion of the first two units and the successful completion of the synoptic, scenario based, short answer examination, if they choose to do so. This qualification goes into greater depth than the smaller Award, which serves as a useful introduction to the subject.

**Further information**

For more information about the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Certificate for Early Years, Childcare and Education (603/2988/9) please visit the NCFE website.