

Early Years Educator Full time (16-18 year olds) CACHE/NCFE

What are the aims of the course?

The aims of the course are for the students to gain experience in a variety of childcare settings and gain knowledge of working with children up to 7 years. From September 2014 the Early Years Educator qualifications will be the only qualifications to confer a licence to practice. This qualification is awarded by CACHE/NCFE.

What does the course involve?

The course is taught as a package at the Stoney Lane campus, where there is a mixture of students from all age groups. Other 16-18 year old students study Hairdressing, Beauty and Complementary Therapy on site. It is a very different environment to the sixth form site, as it is much smaller and there are also a significant number of students aged 18 or above, studying Early Years and Teaching and Learning Support at degree level. Students on the Early Years Educator course will attend college in a block of two days a week over two years. A further placement two days a week will be arranged in a variety of childcare settings.



What topics will I be covering?

In order to aid holistic delivery and assessment the course is structured around four themes. These are: Health and Well-being; Legislation, Frameworks and Professional Practice; Play development and Learning for School Readiness and Professional Development. There are a series of units of study under each theme. For example, under Health and Well-being, units focus on supporting healthy lifestyles, exercise and physical care routines for children, supporting children who are unwell and understanding the needs of mothers and babies. In Legislation frameworks and professional practice there is an introduction to the role of the early year's practitioner, working in partnership and legislation relating to safeguarding, protection and welfare of children as well as equality, diversity and inclusive practice. The third theme: Play, Development and Learning for School Readiness encompasses a whole range of knowledge relating to development of play, literacy, mathematical skills, speech, language and cognitive development of children, as well as their personal, social and emotional development. You will also look at supporting children with additional needs.

This course will help students to develop observational, assessment and planning skills to support the development of children. The final theme is a much smaller one and consists of a single unit on engaging in professional development.

Do I need any previous knowledge or entry qualifications?

Maths and English GCSE grade C and above (or equivalent) are required by the end of the qualification, enabling you to be a licenced practitioner. Those who do not have these on application, will be expected to study towards them alongside the Early Years Educator course.

What could the course lead to?

This course can lead to a career working with children and entry into the workforce as an Early Years Educator. Students wishing to progress to higher education could continue to the Foundation Degree in Early Years or the BA (Hons) in Early Years (both offered at the college). Applications to join the Teaching and Learning Support FdA or the BA (Hons) in Teaching and Learning Support, at the college, would also be considered.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through short answer papers, reflective studies, essays, coursework and you will be observed by a qualified assessor in your work place. There is also a longitudinal study, which assesses the student's knowledge, understanding and skills of observation, assessment and planning. The study is set by the exam board but is likely to focus on studies/observation of specific children from different age ranges in a real life work environment, over a period of time.



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