

# CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care

## DESCRIPTION

This qualification reflects the role of educators in early childhood education and care who work in regulated children's education and care services in Australia. They support children's wellbeing, and development in the context of an approved learning framework. Educators use a range of well-developed skills and knowledge using discretion and judgment when carrying out their work in the context of established policies and procedures. They may work independently or under the guidance of others, though in some contexts that guidance may not be on-site.

Early childhood educators work in long day care centres, family day care, pre-schools or kindergartens.

To achieve this qualification, the individual must have completed a total of at least 160 hours of work in a regulated children's education and care service in Australia, as detailed in the Assessment Requirements of units of competency. The total number of hours may be applied collectively across all units of competency that include the requirement for workplace hours.

A working with children clearance 'Ochre Card' from SAFE NT will be required.

Under the Education and Care Services National Law (2011) the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) publishes lists of approved early childhood education and care qualifications and information regarding regulatory requirements here: [www.acecqa.gov.au](http://www.acecqa.gov.au).

## ELIGIBILITY/ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no mandatory entry requirements for this qualification, however, applicants who wish to commence this course need to have the required skills and knowledge to undertake the qualification at this level, e.g. completion of Year 10 or equivalent and a general command of spoken and written English to be able to meet industry standards for communication.

Everyone employed or volunteering in child-related work is required by law to hold an Ochre Card. It will, therefore, be a mandatory requirement to hold an Ochre card in order to complete any work placement. If you have not yet obtained an Ochre card, please contact [SAFENT](mailto:safent@pfes.nt.gov.au):

Location	Darwin	Alice Springs
	Ground Floor 37 Woods St, Darwin City	The Green Well Building 50 Bath Street, Alice Springs
Phone	1800 SAFE NT (1800 72 33 68)	1800 SAFE NT (1800 72 33 68)
Email	<a href="mailto:safent.police@pfes.nt.gov.au">safent.police@pfes.nt.gov.au</a>	<a href="mailto:safent.police@pfes.nt.gov.au">safent.police@pfes.nt.gov.au</a>
Postal Address	PO Box 39764, Winnellie NT 0821	PO Box 39764, Winnellie NT 0821

To ensure you have the right skills and support to succeed in your course, a Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LL&N) evaluation helps identify any areas where you may need additional support to help you achieve your goals.

## DELIVERY DETAILS

Location(s)	Duration*	Study mode
Alice Springs, Palmerston, Katherine, Remote	This program is delivered over a period of 6 to 12 months.	This program is offered in a variety of modes depending on the needs and location of the student. Including face-to-face classes, online or in mixed mode, and work placement. The student's needs will be discussed at the initial interview with their VET Lecturer.

\* Duration will vary depending on how long a student takes to reach the required competency level.

## FEES

Fee Type	2025 Course Fees
Fee Free TAFE*	Free
Full Fee	\$16,364.68

\*This course is part of the Fee Free TAFE initiative. Fee Free TAFE and vocational education and training is a joint initiative of the Northern Territory Government and Australian Governments providing tuition-free training places to students wanting to train, retain or upskill.

Fee-free places are available for eligible domestic students who are NT residents; limited places are available, so secure your place now.

Fees shown are indicative and subject to change annually. Actual course fees may vary depending on the units chosen. International non-student visa-holders; study eligibility needs to be verified before enrolment. Fees may vary depending on the visa type. The course fee rates will vary for commercial contract arrangements.

For further clarification and information on fees, payment options, instalment plans, and refunds, contact CDU on 1800 061 963 or refer to [TAFE Fees and Payments](#).

## ASSESSMENT

Assessments vary with each unit. You will be provided with an assessment guide.

## RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

RPL is a process that determines whether the skills, knowledge, and experience you have gained through your previous study, work, or life experience can count towards a vocational training qualification at CDU. For more information, refer to [VET RPL](#).

## RESOURCES

Computer and internet access will be required to participate in online sessions, source information, and complete assessments.

Students are issued with learning materials and resources relevant to the unit. The required textbooks for CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care are:

Birth to Big School – 5th edition by Karen Kearns  
Paperback/eBook  
Published by Cengage Learning  
ISBN 9780170457309/ISBN 978017045052

The Big Picture, 5th Edition by Karen Kearns  
Paperback/eBook  
Published by Cengage Learning  
ISBN: 9780170457316/ ISBN: 9780170450355

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2025 – Version 2 - Fee Free TAFE



## STUDY AND CAREER PATHWAYS

Further training pathways from CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care include but are not limited to the CHC50121 Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care.

Possible occupations relevant to this qualification include:

- Early childhood educator
- Nanny
- Outside school hours educator
- Home-based educator
- Support worker
- Preschool assistant

## QUALIFICATION CONTENT

To achieve the CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, a total of seventeen (17) units of competency must be completed comprising fifteen (15) core and two (2) elective units as detailed in the packaging rules and listed below. This qualification is delivered in five (5) clustered modules and three (3) individual units.

## UNITS

<b>Health, Safety, and Legal</b>	
HLTWHS001	Participate in workplace health and safety (core)
CHCECE055	Meet legal and ethical obligations in children's education and care (core)
CHCECE031	Support children's health, safety and well-being (core)
<b>Educator Professional Practice</b>	
CHCECE056	Work effectively in children's education and care (core)
CHCECE034	Use an approved learning framework to guide practice (core)
CHCPRP003	Reflect on and improve own professional practice (elective)
<b>Single Unit</b>	
HLTFSE001	Follow basic food safety practices (elective)
<b>Relationships and Inclusive Practices</b>	
CHCECE033	Develop positive and respectful relationships with children (core)
CHCECE030	Support inclusion and diversity (core)
<b>Holistic Development and Protection</b>	
CHCPRT001	Identify and respond to children and young people at risk (core)
CHCECE035	Support the holistic learning and development of children (core)
<b>Single Unit</b>	
CHCECE032	Nurture babies and toddlers (core)
<b>Foster and Value Play</b>	
CHCECE036	Provide experiences to support children's play and learning (core)
CHCECE037	Support children to connect with the natural environment (core)
CHCECE038	Observe children to inform practice (core)
<b>Single Unit</b>	
CHCECE054	Encourage understanding of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture (core)
<b>First Aid</b>	
HLTAID012*	Provide First Aid in an education and care setting (core)

*\*Please note that HLTAID012 must be obtained by the student externally*

## **WITHDRAWING FROM A QUALIFICATION**

You may withdraw from this qualification and receive, where relevant, a Statement of Attainment for all units of competency you have successfully completed.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

The University supplies support for students in many areas, including Accommodation, Careers and Employability, Counselling, Disability Services, Student Advocacy, Indigenous Tutorial Support Services, International Student Support Services, Library Services, and VET Learner Support Services.

More information is available at [Student Support](#).

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Education and Foundation Skills

E. [vet.csh@cdu.edu.au](mailto:vet.csh@cdu.edu.au)  
T. 08 8946 7517 (CAS) 08 8959 5312 (ASP)  
W. <https://www.cdu.edu.au/study/essentials>

For further information regarding student life at CDU, please refer to <https://www.cdu.edu.au/study/student-life>.