

New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 5) (Version 2)

If you are interested in working with infants, toddlers or young children, the New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 5) may be right for you. The programme is offered nationwide which means you can study with us from wherever you are in New Zealand. This is a great way to build an early childhood career and will set you up well for further study towards an early childhood teaching degree. You do not need to work in an early childhood service while studying although this will be helpful and is recommended.

Qualification code NZ2851-2

Level > 5	Credits > 120
Workload >	Allow 10-12 hours of study per credit. Your workload may be higher around assessment due dates.
Study type >	Three intakes a year in February, July and November. See overleaf for the admission process.
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

Graduates of this qualification will have the skills and knowledge to work as early childhood educators in a range of early childhood contexts, such as centre-based, hospital-based (play specialist assistant), home-based, nanny, parent-led, or culturally-based contexts including Pasifika or Māori.



How to apply

Go to the choose courses tab on the qualification page on our website. You will find a list of recommended courses to enrol in the qualification structure. Once you've selected your course(s) you will then be taken through our step-by-step enrolment process, which you can save and exit from at any time.

Qualification structure

This qualification consists of eight compulsory courses totalling 120 credits. All courses are 15 credits. You need to complete all courses in the list below to graduate with this qualification. The programme works in trimesters of 16 weeks. A full-time work load for a trimester is three or four courses. Part-time is a minimum of two courses. The following course order is recommended.

Course Code	Course Name	Level
EDU501	Becoming a Teacher in Aotearoa	5
EDU502	Tō Tātou Tiriti 1	5
EDU503	Teacher Research and Inquiry 1	5
EDU504	Learning and Development 1	5
EDU505	Curriculum Studies 1	5
EDU506	Identity, Language and Culture 1	5
EDU507	Inclusive Practice 1	5
EDU508	Professional Practice 1	5

What you will Learn

When you achieve this qualification you will know how to:

- Engage in early childhood education practices which reflect Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi and the place of Māori as tangata whenua.
- Apply knowledge of key early childhood teaching, learning and development theories and approaches, and historical influences, to inform and guide practice in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Implement the philosophy, principles, and practices embodied in Te Whāriki, and supporting resources, to promote children's learning.
- Provide a healthy, safe, and inclusive environment for the protection, care, wellbeing and education of children/mokopuna as guided by legislative and regulatory requirements and children's rights (UNCROC).
- Communicate effectively and include cultural protocols, whanaungatanga, and manaakitanga concepts, to develop and maintain inclusive and collaborative relationships with a wide range of people in an early childhood education and care community.
- Manage personal wellbeing and engage in the personal, professional, ethical and reflective practices required of an early childhood educator.
- Support children's language, culture and identity, through the application of emerging knowledge of cultural competence, with consideration of diverse families and aspirations for their children's learning.
- Use knowledge of philosophies, perspectives and contexts of early childhood education in Aotearoa New Zealand, including contemporary Māori and Pasifika education developments and implications for practice, to inform an emerging personal philosophy of practice.

Entry requirements

To apply for entry to this programme you need to have NCEA Level 3 or equivalent.

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.

Programme Delivery

You will access courses online with academic support from academic staff members.

Contact with your academic staff members and other students will occur at workshops, noho marae, tutorials and during practicums over the course of your study.

Admission process

The admission process includes completion of an online application for enrolment, shortlisting and an interview. During the online application process we will ask you to provide:

- your employment history
- evidence of your qualifications
- details of any criminal convictions or traffic infringements
- your interests, hobbies, iwi and community involvement
- verified identification and a consent form for police vetting
- the contact details of two referees who have agreed to provide a confidential report in support of your application. We can contact your referee directly by email or you can download the form if they do not have an email address. Your referee cannot be a family member or friend.

Learners will also be asked to complete a written literacy and numeracy test. Visit the qualification page on our website and go to the admission process tab for more information.

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.

English language requirements

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. International students.

Workshops and practicum

Workshop and noho marae dates are advised well in advance on our website.

During the Professional Practice 1 (EDU508) course you will gain teaching experience through a five-week practicum at an approved licensed Early Childhood Centre. This offers you the opportunity to work alongside children and qualified early childhood teachers to integrate your learning in relation to everyday teaching experiences. During your placement, you are required to actively participate for 30 hours a week in the routines of the early childhood centre.

International students and domestic students living overseas

This programme is not open to:

- International students living overseas or in New Zealand
- Domestic students living overseas

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

Related qualifications

Graduates can progress to the following Open Polytechnic programme:

- OP7031 Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Education)