

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.

ELIGIBILITY/ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy (LLND) evaluation helps identify any areas where you may need additional support to help you achieve your goals.

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 do not already have an Ochre card, you can apply through [SAFE NT Online Applications](#).

DELIVERY DETAILS

Location(s)	Alice Springs, Casuarina, Palmerston, Katherine, Remote
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Duration*	1 year full time, 2 years part time
Study mode ^^	Blended
Dates ^	Term 1: 3 March 2026 Term 2: 14 April 2026 Term 3: 14 July 2026 Term 4: 6 October 2026 Casuarina and Palmerston students can enrol at the start of each term. Continuous enrolment is available for Alice Springs, Katherine and remote students. A specific commencement date will be determined in consultation with the delivery team.
Attendance ^	2 days per week^ (varies depending on location) Face to face and/or online 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

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

^ A course timetable/study plan will be provided on application for the course.

^^ Information relating to study modes can be found in the 2026 TAFE Student Guide

FEES

Fee Type	2026 Course Fees
Fee Free TAFE*	Free
Full Fee	\$16,406.28

*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.

ASSESSMENT

Skills and knowledge assessments are an essential step in progressing through your course. You may be assessed in a number of ways including written assessment, questioning, portfolios, work samples, direct observation, practical assessments and third-party feedback.

Throughout your course you will receive information about assessments including how, when and where assessments will be conducted.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

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

CREDIT TRANSFER (CT)

Charles Darwin University as a Registered Training Organisation recognises the Australian Qualifications Framework qualifications and Statement of Attainments issued by any other Australian Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

Students are encouraged to submit any requests for credit from previous studies at the time of enrolment, to ensure they are not enrolling in units they may not need to undertake.

RESOURCES

Students will have 24/7 access to assessments and learning resources on Learnline, CDU's online learning platform. Before you can start using Learnline, you'll need to make sure that your computer has the correct setup. For more details: <https://www.cdu.edu.au/current-students/services/learnline>

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

Additional costs to students include:

- Working with Children Clearance – Standard Fee (Employment) \$87.00
- Working with Children Clearance – Concession Fee (Volunteer) \$8.00

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:

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

QUALIFICATION CONTENT

To achieve 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

Health, Safety, and Legal	
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)
Educator Professional Practice	
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)
Single Unit	
HLTFSE001	Follow basic food safety practices (elective)
Relationships and Inclusive Practices	
CHCECE033	Develop positive and respectful relationships with children (core)
CHCECE030	Support inclusion and diversity (core)
Holistic Development and Protection	
CHCPRT001	Identify and respond to children and young people at risk (core)
CHCECE035	Support the holistic learning and development of children (core)
Single Unit	
CHCECE032	Nurture babies and toddlers (core)
Foster and Value Play	
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)
Single Unit	
CHCECE054	Encourage understanding of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture (core)
First Aid	
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 provides support for students in many areas, including Accommodation, Careers and Employability, Counselling, Disability Services, Financial Support 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 - Life, Health and Wellbeing](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

Education and Foundation Skills

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

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