

# CHC50121 Diploma of 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. Educators at this level are responsible for designing and implementing curriculum that meets the requirements of an approved learning framework and for maintaining compliance in other areas of service operations. They use specialised knowledge and analyse and apply theoretical concepts to diverse work situations. They may have responsibility for supervision of volunteers or other educators.

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 280 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).

AFB: This is an approved Away From Base (AFB) 'mixed mode' course. For further information about AFB see [www.cdu.edu.au/afb](http://www.cdu.edu.au/afb).

This course can be undertaken as a traineeship. Visit [TAFE Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#) for more information.

## ELIGIBILITY/ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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.

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.

To gain entry into CHC50121 Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care, candidates require:

- Hold a CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care OR
- CHC30113 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care.
- AND work in a regulated Early Childhood Education and Care Service.

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, Palmerston, Casuarina, Katherine, Remote
Duration*	12 months full time
Study mode ^^	Blended
Dates ^	Semester 1 2 February – 19 June 14 July – 11 December
Attendance ^	Face to face and/or online 2 days per week on campus TBC or online 9.00 am – 2.00 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
NT Government Supported*	\$5,189.80
Full Fee	\$18,615.88

\*This course is supported by the NT Government for domestic [eligible](#) students who are NT residents. A limited number of NT Government supported 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. For 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, fee exemptions, payment options, instalment plans, and refunds, contact CDU on 1800 061 963 or refer to [TAFE Fees and Payments](#)

## VET STUDENT LOANS

Eligible students may access a VET Student Loan to pay for their Diploma course fees (up to capped the amount). Determine your eligibility using the [VET Student Loan Eligibility Tool](#) on the [Your Career](#) website.

For more information visit [VET Students Loans \(VSL\)](#)

## 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.

The required textbooks for CHC50121 Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care are:

- Frameworks for Learning and Development – 5th edition by Karen Kearns paperback/eBook  
Published by Cengage Learning  
ISBN 9780170445535 /ISBN 9780170455770
- The Business of Childcare – 5th edition by Karen Kearns paperback/eBook  
Published by Cengage Learning  
ISBN 9780170445528 /ISBN 9780170455749

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

Currently there are credit transfer arrangements between this qualification and higher education qualification.

Possible occupations relevant to this qualification include:

- early childhood educator
- group leader
- service director
- preschool assistant
- outside school hours educator/director
- home based educator
- nanny
- support worker

## QUALIFICATION CONTENT

To achieve CHC50121 Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care a total of fifteen (15) units of competency must be completed comprising twelve (12) Core and three (3) Elective units as detailed in the packaging rules and listed below. This qualification is delivered in six (6) clustered modules and three (3) individual units.

### UNITS

<b>Embed and guide environmental responsibility</b>	
BSBTWK502	Manage team effectiveness (core)
CHCECE049	Embed environmental responsibility in service operations (core)
<b>Emotional intelligence in leadership</b>	
BSBPEF502	Develop and use emotional intelligence (elective)
CHCMGT003	Lead the work team (elective)
<b>Single Unit</b>	
CHCECE042	Foster holistic early childhood learning, development and wellbeing (core)
<b>Single Unit</b>	
CHCECE043	Nurture creativity in children (core)
<b>Positive partnerships with families</b>	
CHCECE050	Work in partnership with children's families (core)
CHCECE053	Respond to grievances and complaints about the service (elective)
<b>Respectful interactions and inclusions</b>	
CHCECE045	Foster positive and respectful interactions and behaviour in children (core)
CHCECE046	Implement strategies for the inclusion of all children (core)
<b>Compliance, health and safety</b>	
CHCECE041	Maintain a safe and healthy environment for children (core)
CHCECE044	Facilitate compliance in a children's education and care service (core)
<b>Curriculum planning</b>	
CHCECE047	Analyse information to inform children's learning (core)
CHCECE048	Plan and implement children's education and care curriculum (core)
<b>Single Unit</b>	
CHCPRP003	Reflect on and improve own professional practice (core)

## 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](mailto: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>.