

6193433 Purpose Statement

Open Awards Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Educator (RQF)

The primary purpose of this qualification is to enable you to demonstrate your competency as an Early Years Educator. It prepares you to take your skills to a higher level and enhance your professional development. The qualification focuses on the essential skills required to fulfil a role within an Early Years Setting.

This qualification has been approved by the Department for Education as fully meeting the Level 3 (EYE) criteria needed to be considered to be full and relevant in line with the Level 3 (EYE) requirements. The full [Early Years Qualification List](#) can be viewed here.

Who is it for?

This qualification prepares you to become Early Years Educator, enabling you to work with children from birth to 5 years and gain knowledge of children aged 5 to 7 years.

What does this qualification cover?

The qualification will take 640 hours to complete of which 320 hours of these will be guided with your assessor. You will need to complete and achieve a pass mark in all of the twelve mandatory units.

The units content covers essential areas such as:

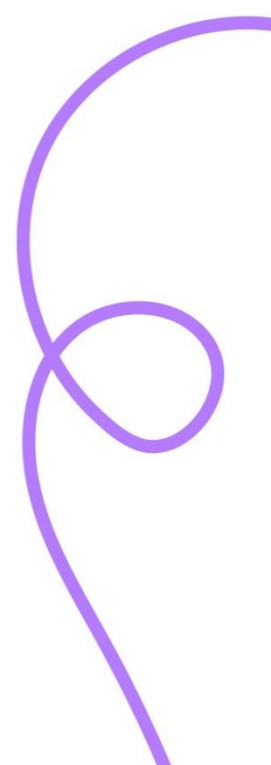
- Keeping Babies and Children Safe
- Understanding Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Understanding How Children Learn
- Working in Partnership with Others in Early Years Education

What are the entry requirements?

This qualification is suitable for those aged 16+.

You will work in an early years setting (or undertake significant work experience) and have responsibility for providing person-centred, values-driven care and support for children accessing the service. You will typically work under the direction of your manager or supervisor.

As this is a work-based qualification, to be included in the staff: child ratios at Level 3, you must also hold a suitable Level 2 English qualification. If you do not already hold a suitable Level 2 English qualification, you should be supported to achieve this alongside the Open Awards Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Educator (RQF).



What are the assessment methods?

You will be required to complete a portfolio of evidence set and marked by your education provider and externally quality assured by Open Awards.

This qualification will take 1-2 years to complete depending on experience. You must be able to provide sufficient evidence that you have the required knowledge, skills and understanding of the assessment criteria and that it is your own work.

Types of evidence could include:

- a) Written assignments
- b) Examinations
- c) Observation of performance
- d) Questioning (written or oral)
- e) Practical Activities
- f) Photographs or videos
- g) Personal statements
- h) Reflective logs
- i) Project work
- j) Witness testimonies
- k) Group discussion

What are the progression opportunities?

The qualification provides a mechanism for you to recognise and develop your competence as an Early Years Educator.

You may choose to seek employment in one of follow roles:

- Childminder assistant
- Early years educator/worker
- Nursery educator/nurse
- Nursery worker

Further progression opportunities could be to apprenticeships in:

- Early years led practitioner (Level 5)
- Early years teacher (EYTS) (Level 6)

Or to senior roles within the Early Years Education setting.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification was developed according to the Department for Education (DfE) [Early Years qualification requirements and standards](#) (level 3) criteria from 1 September 2024. It is supported by a range of education providers, including: Wigan and Leigh College and Kids Planet.

