

Purpose Statement

Open Awards Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Educator (Diploma)

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 Skills England as a Technical Occupational Entry qualification that aligns to the knowledge, skills, and behaviours of the relevant employer-led occupational standard (ST0135). In addition, this qualification meets the criteria that Early Years Educator (Level 3) qualifications must meet to be recognised as full and relevant by the Department for Education.

Who is it for?

This qualification prepares you to become an 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 416 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:

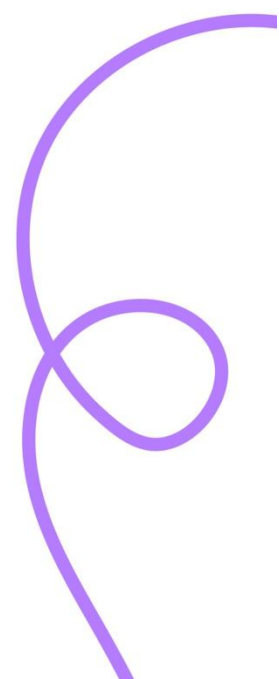
- Keeping Babies and Children Safe
- Understanding Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Understanding How Children Learn
- Working in Partnership with Others in Early Years Education

What are the entry requirements?

This qualification is suitable for you if you are aged 19+.

You will work in an early years setting (or undertake significant work experience) and will need to gain experience of working with the following age groups:

- 0-5 year olds
- 5-7 year olds



You will have responsibility for providing person-centred, values-driven care and support for the children accessing the service. You will typically work under the direction of their manager or supervisor.

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 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Educator (Diploma).

What are the assessment methods?

You will be required to submit a portfolio of evidence. Types of evidence could include:

- Written assignments
- Observation of performance
- Questioning (written or oral)
- Practical Activities
- Photographs or videos
- Personal statements
- Reflective logs
- Project work
- Witness testimonies
- Group discussion

There will be at least two observations of practice completed by a qualified assessor across the 12-24 month course duration.

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 the following roles:

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

Further progression opportunities could be to apprenticeships in:

- Early years lead 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.

