

Te Wāhanga Mātauranga | Playcentre Education

Fact Sheet

New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4)

Playcentre Education has developed a programme to award the New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4) supporting parents in Playcentre who take up a position of responsibility in Playcentre. The Playcentre licensing agreement recognises that a Level 4 certificate holder can be a person responsible on sessions.

The programme will prepare you for the role of a person responsible in Playcentre providing guidance and supervision of others on session with you. It will provide you with the skills to support infants, toddlers, young children and their families in the Playcentre setting. Achieving the qualification will also potentially prepare you for a career as a homebased educator or an educator working alongside registered teachers in an early childhood setting, a nanny or certificated playgroup educator outside Playcentre or for work in community services for families with young children. A graduate with this qualification can apply to proceed to study a level 7 ECE teacher qualification.

This NZ nationally recognised qualification develops your skills and knowledge to:

- Understand key early childhood socio-cultural theories of learning and development to guide the holistic development and learning of tamariki in Playcentre.
- Use knowledge of multiculturalism, family diversity, and the bicultural curriculum framework, Te Whāriki, to plan, provide, and review enriching learning experiences for tamariki in Playcentre.
- Contribute to providing a culturally inclusive early childhood environment to foster the health, holistic well-being, and care of tamariki and their whānau/families in Playcentre.
- Communicate effectively and engage in respectful, reciprocal, and responsive relationships within Playcentre.
- Manage personal health, wellbeing, and professional development in Playcentre.
- Demonstrate understanding of how legislation and the regulations, community and government services impact on Playcentre and guide its practices, to protect and support the wellbeing of tamariki and whānau/families.
- Understand the diverse philosophical and cultural contexts and approaches which inform early childhood education in Aotearoa New Zealand to develop a personal philosophy of practice.
- Implement bicultural ECE practice and promote awareness of Māori as tangata whenua through using te reo Māori and tikanga Māori with children and families/whānau in Playcentre.



The qualification involves a practical component:

You will be an active participant in a licensed Playcentre so that you can complete the practicum requirements for this qualification. You must complete a minimum of 40 sessions while enrolled in the certificate in order to ensure that assessments match *current* practice. A session duty includes pre-session preparation time, full session attendance and post-session clean-up and evaluation in preparation for the next session.

Qualification structure as delivered by Playcentre Education

Qualification			Credits	
NZ2850	New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care			
	Level 4		60 Credits	
Programme Structure				
Code	Name of Module	Module credits	Award credits	Conditions
B - series Modules				
B401	Let's Play	5	10 credits	Recommend to do B401 first
B402	Kotahitanga in Playcentre	5		
Playcentre Introductory Award			10 credits	
Entry requirement is completion of the Playcentre Introductory Award				
B403	Positive relationships	5		
B404	Te kakano – Te reo Māori me nga tikanga	5		
Parent Educator Award			10 credits	
C-series Modules - Entry requirement is completion of the Playcentre Educator Award				
C405	Theory guides practice	11		do first
C406	Enriching children's play	5		
C407	Playcentre and the regulations	7		
C408	Communicating effectively	9		
C409	Philosophy guides practice	5		do last
C410	Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Playcentre	3		
		40		
NZ Cert in Early Childhood Education and Care			60 credits	



The Playcentre programme is broken into ten relatively small modules to allow you to study flexibly while participating in Playcentre with your tamariki.

The programme begins with four B-series modules which lead to two unique Playcentre licensing awards

Then there are six C-series modules to complete the remainder of the requirements for the NZ Certificate in ECE and Care level 4

The programme begins with B-series modules and two Playcentre Licensing Awards

There are two awards recognised for licensing within Playcentre: the **Playcentre Introductory Award** which is given on completion of the first two modules [B401 and B402]. This award is designed to be a short introduction to key knowledge and skills needed for adults beginning to work with children in Playcentre. The **Playcentre Educator Award** is achieved on completion of the next two modules [B403 and B404]. There is an overall minimum requirement for full attendance at 10 sessions (30 hours) to achieve the Playcentre Educator Award. Note these are Playcentre-specific internal awards which have no automatic recognition outside the Playcentre organisation.

The modules in the **Playcentre Introductory Award** are:

B401 – Let's Play

This module is about developing a basic understanding of the Te Whāriki curriculum framework and how to enrich learning experiences for young children through play.

B402 – Kotahitanga in Playcentre

This module is about providing a safe, healthy and culturally inclusive environment for the children at Playcentre.

The modules in the **Playcentre Educator Award** are:

B403 – Positive relationships with children

This module is about developing the skills for fostering positive relationships with infants, toddlers and young children.

B404 – Te Reo me nga tikanga Māori

This module provides an introduction to te reo Māori and promotes awareness of tikanga Māori for implementing in Playcentre.



After completing the Parent Educator Award students will be able to apply to enrol in the C series modules for the Level 4 NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care [60 credits]. The Parent Educator Award forms the first 20 credits of the certificate leaving 40 credits to complete the final level 4 qualification.

Certificate in Early Childhood and Care (C- series modules)

Having completed the Parent Educator Award students will be have 20 credits towards the qualification and be able to apply to enrol in the C series modules to gain the further 40 credits required for the Level 4 NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care [60 credits].

C405 Theory guides practice

This module is about how key early childhood socio-cultural theories guide and inform the holistic development and learning of children and how they are applied in practice in Playcentre. The assessment includes several tasks reflecting on practice as well as a tutor visit to have the student's practice observed. *This module is a pre-requisite for all other modules in the C-series.*

C406 Enriching children's play

This module is a further more in depth look at the curriculum framework Te Whāriki and how to plan for and provide enriched play for children in Playcentre. *This module can be worked on as a co-requisite with C405 if preferred.*

C407 Playcentre and the regulations

This module is about the regulations, government, statutory and community agencies which impact on and support Playcentre families. *5 sessions practicum are required on duty where students take responsibility for health and safety and compliance requirements on session.*

C408 Communicating effectively

This module is about how to communicate and build effective relationships with adults in Playcentre. 5 sessions practicum where students lead a session and reflect on communication strategies are required this module.

C409 Philosophy guides practice

This module is about how different philosophical approaches to early childhood education in Aotearoa New Zealand may guide and inform a philosophy of practice. *This module must be the last module completed. It includes an overall reflection on a personal philosophy and the role of a parent educator in Playcentre.*

C410 Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Playcentre

This module is about understanding Playcentre's commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the implications for personal practices in Playcentre. *This module may be completed at any time after the Playcentre Educator Award.*



Other requirements which must be met before students are awarded the Certificate are:

- having a current First Aid certificate [achieved less than 3 years ago] and
- have a current safety check [less than 3 years ago].
- Students will have been observed within the previous 12 months to assess their competency and
- will have completed a consistency questionnaire providing meaningful reflection on their achievement of the graduate outcomes.

To formally enrol in this programme you must:

- be at least 17 years old
- be a domestic student (New Zealand and Australian citizens or those with a resident class visa).
- undergo a safety check as required by the Children's Act (2014)

Useful Information

- This is a New Zealand level 4 programme and requires an ability to read and write well in the English language.
- There are no fees or course costs. Course materials are provided.
- The programme is part time and self paced with a learner scheduled approach. You can start at any time during the year and progress at your own rate. Enrolment is confirmed module by module. You can pause between modules to fit in with family and life demands. You can do one module at a time or two or more at once.
- The programme is a mix of face to face workshops offered at different times of the day, or evenings, weekends or alongside Playcentre sessions) and with some online study options.
- To complete online modules you will need access to a computer, phone or tablet and the internet and have email.
- You will become part of a learning community - others in your centre are likely to be working on or have done the same modules you are doing. There is a network of support within Playcentre and you can choose to engage with others who are also parents of young children from your own and other centres in group settings in workshops. You don't do it alone.



Where and how do I start?

Students begin by attending workshops in module B401 or B402 then the other two B series modules.

When available, if students choose to start with the online option they must begin with B401.

You will receive an enrolment pack either at your first workshop (where there will be help with filling it in) or it will be made available to you if you choose to start with B401 online.

Next step

Explore where workshops are available - look at Find a workshop or online module [here](#)

Read more about the enrolment process [here](#)

Read student policies in the The Student handbook [here](#)

Talk to someone at your centre, a Centre Support Worker or an Education person. Contact details are available [here](#)

