



# Overview of Te Wāhanga Mātauranga | the Playcentre Education Programme

Time to complete module: 30min

## History of Playcentre Education

Playcentre has a rich history of adult education from its earliest days. Early Playcentre leaders championed Playcentre parents and whānau as the first and best educators of children and created formal and informal opportunities for adults to gain new skills, knowledge and the confidence to parent and educate the next generation and to grow as community leaders.

To find out more about the history of the adult education within Playcentre, read the first few introductory chapters of *Learning Together the Playcentre Way* (Alisa Densem & Barbara Chapman, 2000) and *Good Clean Fun* (Sue Stover, 2003). *Learning Together the Playcentre Way* is available to purchase from the Canterbury Playcentre Shop, whereas *Good Clean Fun* is currently out of print. Most Playcentres will have copies of these books (or would have at one time.)

Through the years, Playcentre has offered informal awards and formal qualifications with a variety of names: Parent helper certificate, Playcentre supervisor or Team leader certificate, National Certificate, NZPF Association Certificate and NZPF Federation Certificate (with component courses called stages then parts) and from 2000 – 2018 the Playcentre Diploma in Adult and Early Childhood Education (Level 6), composed of courses 1 – 6 delivered within Playcentre associations.

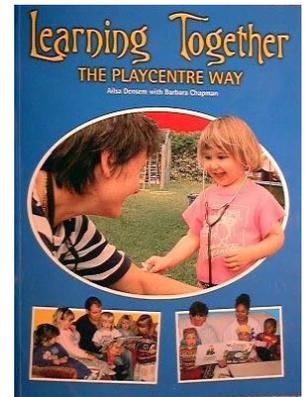
## The Current Education Programme

Playcentre Aotearoa currently offers whānau the opportunity to complete the **NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4)**. This is an NZQA-accredited certificate that is transferrable to other education organisations within NZ. The current certificate is the same through Playcentres within Aotearoa and it is easy for students to undertake study from various locations and online. Unlike the previous course that made up the diploma, the content of the certificate is at the same level throughout the certificate (Level 4) – it does not get harder as students continue.

The certificate has been designed in 10 short modules and ordered in a way that introduces adults to their role as Playcentre kaiako in a sensible and systematic way. There are two internal awards that students achieve before completing the full certificate (the Playcentre Introductory Award (**PIA**, modules B401 and B402) and the Playcentre Educator Award (**PEA** modules B403 and B404). Note: these are Playcentre-specific internal awards, recognised for licensing, but with no automatic recognition outside the Playcentre organisation.

Two modules require attendance at face-to-face workshops (B404 Te Kakano – Te Reo Māori me ngā Tikanga and C408 Communicating Effectively). The rest of the modules can be completed online, with face-to-face options also available for the PIA and PEA workshops.

The [Playcentre website](#) has comprehensive information about the education programme including enrolment. The [Playcentre Education Fact Sheet](#) explains more information that is useful to know.





Take the time to browse through the education information available on the website.

### Programme Structure

		Module name	Credits:
PIA Playcentre Introductory Award	B401	Kia Tākaro   Let's Play	5
	B402	Kotahitanga in Playcentre	5
PEA Playcentre Educator Award	B403	Positive relationships	5
	B404	Te kakano –Te reo Māori me nga tikanga	5

C Series	C405	Theory Guides Practice	11
	C406	Enriching Children's Play	5
	C407	Playcentre and the regulations	7
	C408	Communication Effectively	9
	C410	Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Playcentre	3
	C409	Philosophy guides Practice	5
		Total credits	60

### Programme explanation

There are two awards recognised for licensing within Playcentre:

- The **Playcentre Introductory Award (PIA)** 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 (PEA)** 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.



## What are these modules about?

### PIA -Playcentre Introductory Award

- **B401 – Kia Tākaro - 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** is about providing a safe, healthy and culturally inclusive environment for the children at Playcentre. The modules in the

### PEA - Playcentre Educator Award

- **B403 – Positive Relationships.** This module is about developing the skills for fostering positive relationships with infants, toddlers and young children.
- **B404 – Te Kākano: 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. **This module must be done kanohi ki te kanohi/face to face**

After completing the PEA, students will be able to enrol in the C series module to complete the Level 4 NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care. The certificate is worth 60 credits in total and students will have done 20 of them in the PIA (10) and PEA (10), so the C series modules are worth 40 credits. These modules vary in size –an important fact for students to realise. The first module, C405 is by far the biggest (11credits) so is divided into two parts.

### C series Modules overview

- **C405 Theory guides practice** 11 credits. This is the largest module in the series. It is divided in parts A & B. This can be challenging for students until they understand that once they have complete this one they are nearly half way through the C series!  
*This is a pre-requisite for all other modules in the C-series so must be done first* 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.
- **C406 Enriching children's play** 5 credits is a 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** 7 credits This module is about the regulations, government, statutory and community agencies which impact on and support Playcentre families. Five sessions practicum are required on duty where students take responsibility for health and safety and compliance requirements on session.
- **C408 Communicating effectively** 9 credits 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 as well as facilitating and reflecting on a Playcentre meeting. **This module must be done kanohi ki te kanohi/face to face**



- **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 Parent Educator award.
- **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.

#### Other requirements to complete the certificate

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

#### Other useful information

- to be eligible to enrol in the programme students must
  - be at least 17 years old
  - be a domestic student (New Zealand and Australian citizens or have a **resident** class visa).
  - undergo a safety check as required by the Children's Act (2014)
- B404 and C408 can only be completed after attendance at face to face workshops. B401, B402 and B403 modules can be completed either face to face or online. C series workshops are available online only.
- Workshop attendance for PIA and PEA in particular is encouraged so students can engage with other parents and develop support networks.
- If a student misses a face to face workshop they can catch up online.
- A limited number of Chromebooks are available on loan for students enrolled in online modules who do not have a laptop or tablet to access the programme.



## The New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (L4)



### Playcentre Introductory Award (PIA)

B401 *Let's Play* (4 workshops)

B402 *Kotahitanga in Playcentre* (4 workshops)



### Playcentre Educator Award (PEA)

B403 *Positive Relationships* (4 workshops)

B404 *Te kakano - Te reo Maori me nga tikanga* (4 workshops)



### The C Series Modules

C405 Theory guides practice

C406 Enriching children's play

C407 Playcentre and the regulations

C408 Communicating effectively

C409 Philosophy guides practice

C410 Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Playcentre

To receive the Certificate, you also need:

- A current First Aid certificate (achieved less than 3 years ago)
- A current safety check (less than 3 years ago).
- To have been observed within the previous 12 months to assess your competency and complete a consistency questionnaire providing meaningful reflection on your achievement of the graduate outcomes.



## Requesting and hosting workshops

Centres can request to host a workshop, either on session or at another time. Usually, a minimum of six students are required to make this viable. Refer to the Adult Education section of the Playcentre website for contact details for your local area. Your centre will receive an email about Week 6 of each term asking for requests for the following term however you can contact the Education Team to request workshops at any time.

- **Evening and weekend workshops:** Ensure someone from the centre contacts the facilitator to ensure they know the following:
  - ⇒ How to open and close the centre (access to keys, lockboxes, alarms etc)
  - ⇒ Where the adult chairs are and how to access
  - ⇒ Any particular hazards specific to your centre and how you minimise them
  - ⇒ Where the tea, coffee and milk is kept for supper
- **Non-session weekday workshops:** Ensure the following.
  - ⇒ All of the above
  - ⇒ Include in your hazards checklist any issues that apply to children if necessary
  - ⇒ Adequate provision for childcare during the workshop. While it is not a licensed funded session it is still important to supervise the children safely so a 1:5 ratio is recommended.
  - ⇒ We cannot use Playcentre Education funding for childcare so ask for volunteers or share costs with other centres
- **On session workshops:** If a workshop is to be run alongside a licensed session in a centre it is important that we still aim to provide high quality education and care for the children attending as well as a high quality workshop for the adults.
  - ⇒ The overall total number of children on session must not exceed the limit given on the Playcentre license.
  - ⇒ Smaller numbers for the workshop will apply to minimise interruptions and protect the quality for those attending.
  - ⇒ The area set aside for the adult workshop needs to be sufficient for all adults and the facilitator to sit comfortably without blocking off too much of the children's play area.
  - ⇒ Those attending the workshops from the centre may not be part of session ratios/person responsible requirements – there need to be sufficient other adults on duty to cover these requirements.
  - ⇒ The workshop facilitator may not be part of the licensing team and any qualifications they have may *not* be listed on the session list on the day.
  - ⇒ During COVID Alert level 3 on-session workshops must be cancelled.

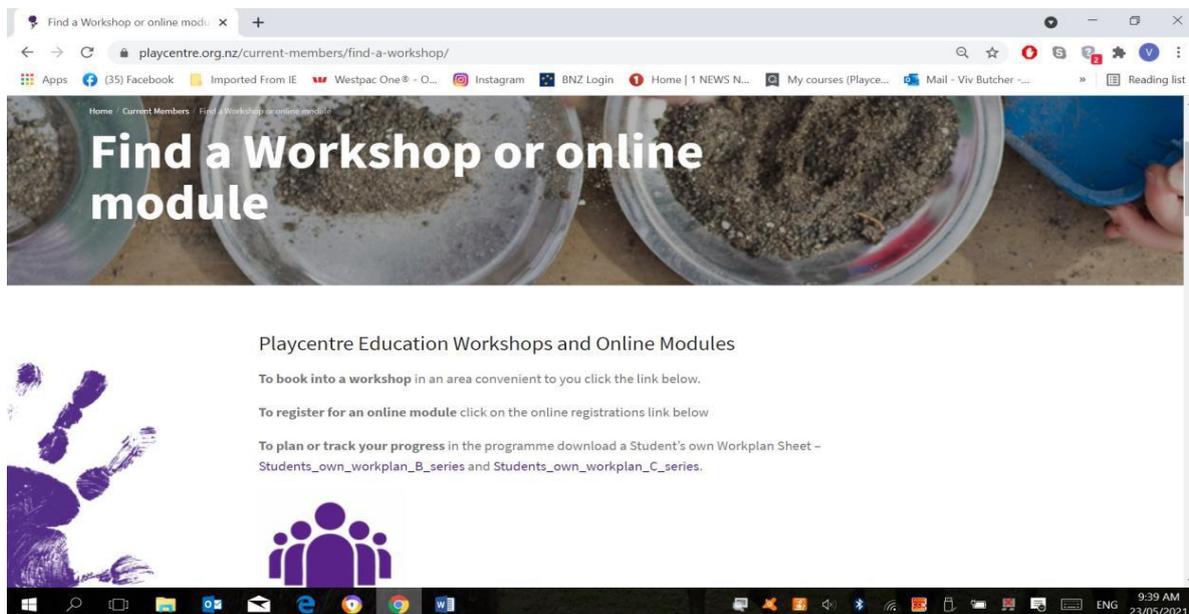


## Online courses

- The online modules are organised as a series of sections just as the face-to-face modules are made up of a series of workshops and cover the same content.
- A computer or tablet is recommended. If you find a student is working on a phone or tablet and some of the learning exercises are proving difficult to complete on it contact Haley Brown-Wahanui, Student Support Coordinator (Online Programmes) [haley.edamin@playcentre.org.nz](mailto:haley.edamin@playcentre.org.nz) and Playcentre Education can arrange a loan of one of the Chromebooks available for this purpose. There are limited number of Chromebooks and they are only allocated to students enrolled in **online** modules.
- Encourage students to take time to process the information, rather than rush through the online course.

## How to register and enrol for online learning

To find an online-offered module go to the Playcentre website and go to “Find a workshop or online module”. <https://www.playcentre.org.nz/current-members/find-a-workshop/>



- Scroll down the booking page to the computer symbol and click on the words ONLINE MODULES. The online options are offered nationally and are not tied to particular regions so you will find them all together in the ONLINE MODULES section.
- Register student interest to study the module online. They will get an acknowledgement that their name is on our list for the next start.
- New groups are formed to satisfy demand as the numbers registered build up so encourage students to register at any time, even if BookWhen says there is a waiting list.
- Students will be sent an email inviting them to access the online module on i-Qualify when the module begins (usually the beginning of each month and mid month.)



- Access with tutor support will be given for 4 weeks for PIA and PEA modules, (longer for some C series modules), which will be plenty of time to complete the units. Assessments tasks are done after this and while there is no deadline for these, however students are expected to complete the assessment tasks during or soon after their study.

### Enrolment information

<https://www.playcentre.org.nz/current-members/enrolment-information/>

- Enrolment packs are sent to online students when they first register to access - electronically by email or paper version if requested. The enrolment pack includes:
  1. an enrolment form
  2. a consent to police vet form and
  3. a safety check form. A safety check required by the Children's Act 2014 will be carried out so that it is completed before you finish the Playcentre Educator Award.

Identity documents required: (see further information on link above)

- For enrolment
  - A Birth certificate with place of birth stated as New Zealand, Cook Islands, Tokelau, Niue or Australia **or** a NZ **or** Australian Passport.
  - **Or** a resident class visa - Overseas Passport with NZ residency stamp or a letter from Immigration New Zealand stating the person has a resident class visa.
- For the safety check - two forms of ID are required (one must be a photo ID)
  - Primary ID documents are a Passport, full Birth Certificate (as above) or Citizenship Certificate
  - Secondary ID documents are a NZ Drivers licence or an 18+ card or a Community Services Card.
  - If the documents are in different names you will need a change of name document – a marriage or civil union certificate
- Verified copies of these documents are required to be sent with the enrolment form. **CAs or workshop tutors can verify the copies** (sight the original and sign the photocopy)
- Once the enrolment form has been processed the student will be placed on the next available course and notified when this is available

Note: **Face to face** -Enrolment is done at the first B401 workshop and students will be supported to complete this at the workshop and the facilitator will verify the ID documents. Some follow up by Centre Advisors may be required for ID documents.

### Completing the Assessments

Following the workshops or the online course, each module has assessment tasks to complete.

See separate Supporting Students for each award for guidance on how Centre Advisors can support ākongā