



Playcentre Education Timeframes

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

Te Wāhanga Mātauranga | Playcentre Education offers an NZQA-approved programme to award the **NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4)**.

Playcentre Education's programme has been designed to fit alongside the lives of multi-tasking parents and whānau who care for young tamariki, by offering:

- Flexible study options – small modules (5-8 credits), rolling enrolments throughout the year, online and face-to-face delivery options, small group sizes and individual support
- Ability to carry out the practicum at Playcentre while bringing your tamariki or mokopuna
- Hands-on learning and skills that are practical in day-to-day involvement at Playcentre
- Stepping stone awards along the way that support your Playcentre to meet group supervision requirements for licensing (ECE funding)

How long does it take?

Most Playcentre ākonga learners can complete comfortably in **12-18 months** with part-time learning and regular participation at Playcentre, however longer completion timeframes are available for ākonga who need more time. The minimum time to complete the certificate is **5 months**. We encourage ākonga to start and complete a module and then take a break between modules as needed, and the programme has been developed in small bite-size modules to make this possible.

Some factors that will influence how quickly ākonga complete include:

- How often they are attending Playcentre. For whānau attending once per week, a 12-18 month timeframe is achievable. Whānau attending more often can complete quicker if they'd like.
- The delivery formats chosen. Typically the self-paced, online iQualify format enables faster completion times than face-to-face workshops – however ākonga have to stay self-motivated to move at a fast pace!
- If credit transfer from prior study is awarded, completion timeframes may be faster.
- How motivated ākonga are to complete *ako learning* outside of Playcentre sessions and how much support the centre provides. Many Playcentres support ākonga to complete learning activities during session time, or care for the learner's tamariki so that they have time to study while at Playcentre.

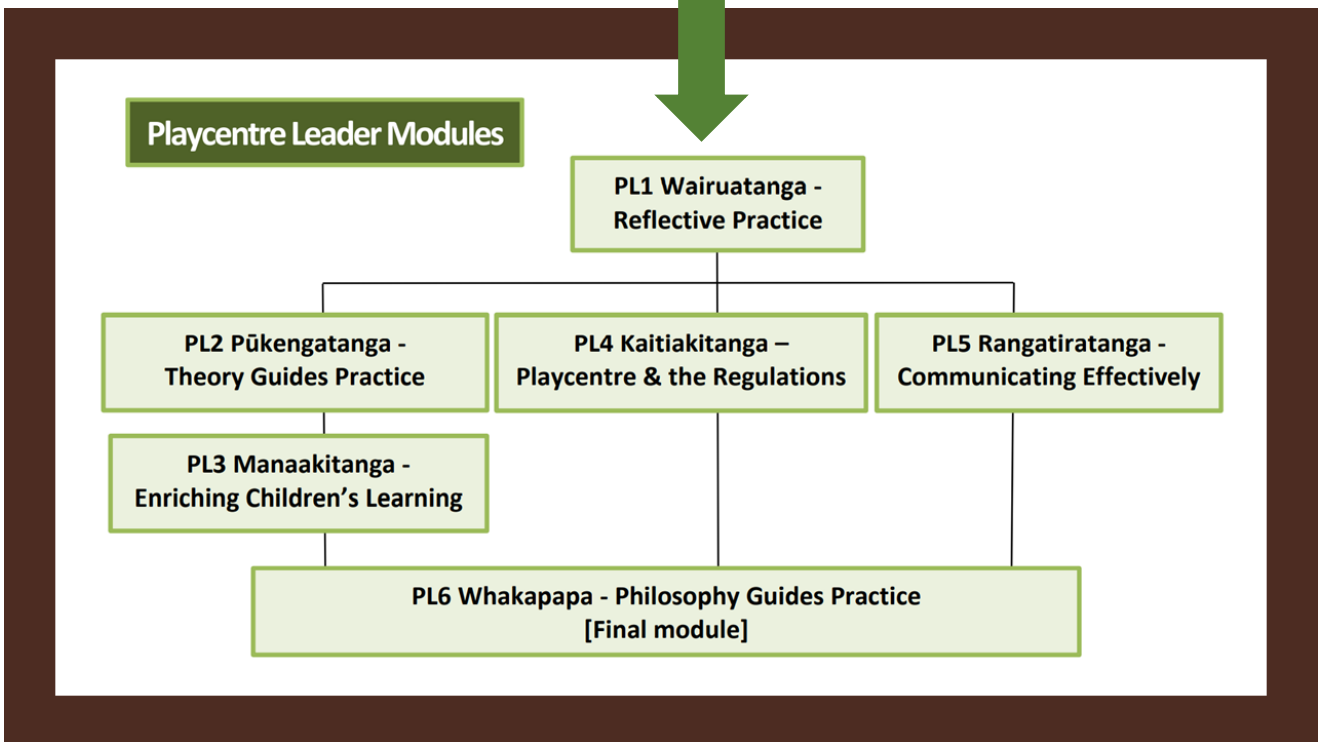
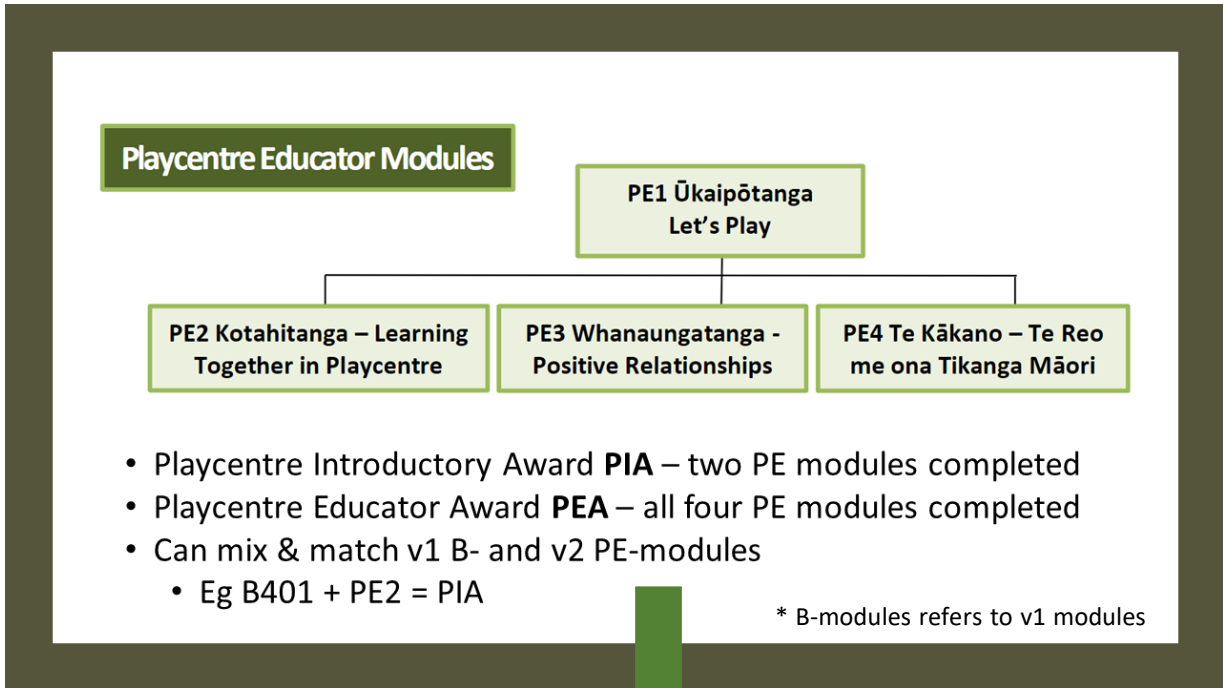
Playcentre





The programme includes ten small modules, with the Playcentre Introductory Award (PIA) and Playcentre Educator Award (PEA) awarded along the way.

The awards are recognised for licensing Playcentre sessions under group supervision. Some ākonga choose to step out of the programme or pause after achieving these awards.



The **NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4)** is awarded when all ten modules (PE + PL) are completed.





Learning Hours

The NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4) is a nationally-recognised New Zealand certificate (NZQA qualification 2850-2). It includes **60 credits** at Level 4. NZQA defines the number of credits in national qualifications, as well as how many learning hours are in each credit*.

The learning hours for Playcentre Education’s delivery of the Level 4 certificate include:

- Practical time involved with Playcentre sessions (40), including the out-of-session tasks that kaiako typically do such as participation in centre hui, writing learning stories, communicating with the Playcentre team and whānau
- Face-to-face workshops or the equivalent time interacting in online learning
- Section *wero challenges* to complete between workshops or online sections – usually these include observing what’s happening at your Playcentre to share with your group
- Reading, including online reading, and videos
- Completion of assessment tasks. All assessment tasks have been designed to be “real” actions you would typically undertake as a Playcentre kaiako and leader to support tamariki and whānau wellbeing and learning and to help create a positive learning environment.

The 60 credit certificate equals 600 learning hours; this calculation is based on the time it would typically take a learner reasonably fluent in English, who has not participated in previous Level 4+ study and who has little or no knowledge of children and early learning. **Most Playcentre ākonga have previously studied at Level 4+ in vocational training, at polytechnic or university, and nearly all are parents, grandparents or caregivers who bring with them experience supporting children.** Some ākonga will have been involved as a Playcentre kaiako for months prior to enrolling in Playcentre Education and will have acquired skills or completed readings through their experiences so far (eg writing learning stories or an introduction to *Te Whāriki*.)

Completion Timeframe	Learning Activities	
	Attending Playcentre	Other Learning Hours (Average for an English-fluent learner with no prior L4+ study or experience as parent/kaiako)
6 months	3x per week	Approx. 9-10 hours per week
1 year	2x per week	Approx. 4-5 hours per week
1.5 years	1-2x per week	Approx. 2-5 hours per week
2 years	1x per week	Approx. 2 hours per week

Playcentre Education learners bring varying skills and knowledge from previous tertiary study and experience as a parent/caregiver, and will move through the programme at different paces. The above times are an estimation based on no previous tertiary study and limited experience working with tamariki *children*.

*NZQA: “[Notional learning hours](#) comprise all planned learning activities leading toward the achievement of programme or qualification learning outcomes. Ten notional learning hours equals one credit.”





Sample Timeframes

The tables below give a sample schedule for completing the certificate to certain timeframes.

Although they are shown Feb – Nov, remember that Playcentre Education has **rolling enrolments and ākonga can start any month**. PE1 starts mid-Jan, with other modules available Feb – Nov. Ākonga can be enrolled in up to two modules at the same time. Remember also that within the PE and PL series, **there are different orders in which modules can be completed**. This table is an example only – there are many different possible combinations. For example, an ākonga could do PE1, then PE4, PE3 and in PE2 in that order, and then move on to the PL modules.

We highly recommend that ākonga participate in **PE4 Te Kākano – Te Reo me ona Tikanga Māori** and **PL5 Rangatiratanga – Communicating Effectively** as **face-to-face** modules when offered locally. Depending on the number of Playcentres and ākonga in an area, they may not be offered every month so we recommend you plan your study around these modules.

Completion Timeframe	Year 1									
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
6 months	PE1+ PE2 PIA	PE3+ PE4 PEA	PL1+ PL2	PL3+ PL4	PL5+ PL6 L4					
1 year	PE1	PE2 PIA	PE3	PE4 PEA	PL1	PL2	PL3	PL4	PL5	PL6 L4
1.5 years	PE1	PE2 PIA		PE3	PE4 PEA		PL1	PL2		PL3
2 years	PE1		PE2 PIA		PE3		PE4 PEA		PL1	

Completion Timeframe	Year 2									
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1.5 years continued	PL4		PL5		PL6 L4					
2 years continued	PL2		PL3			PL4		PL5		PL6 L4

Playcentre Introductory Award PIA = 10 credits

Playcentre Educator Award PEA = 20 credits

NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4) = 60 credits

