

# Playcentre Education

## Te Wāhanga Mātauranga



The NZ Certificate in  
Early Childhood Education  
& Care (Level 4)

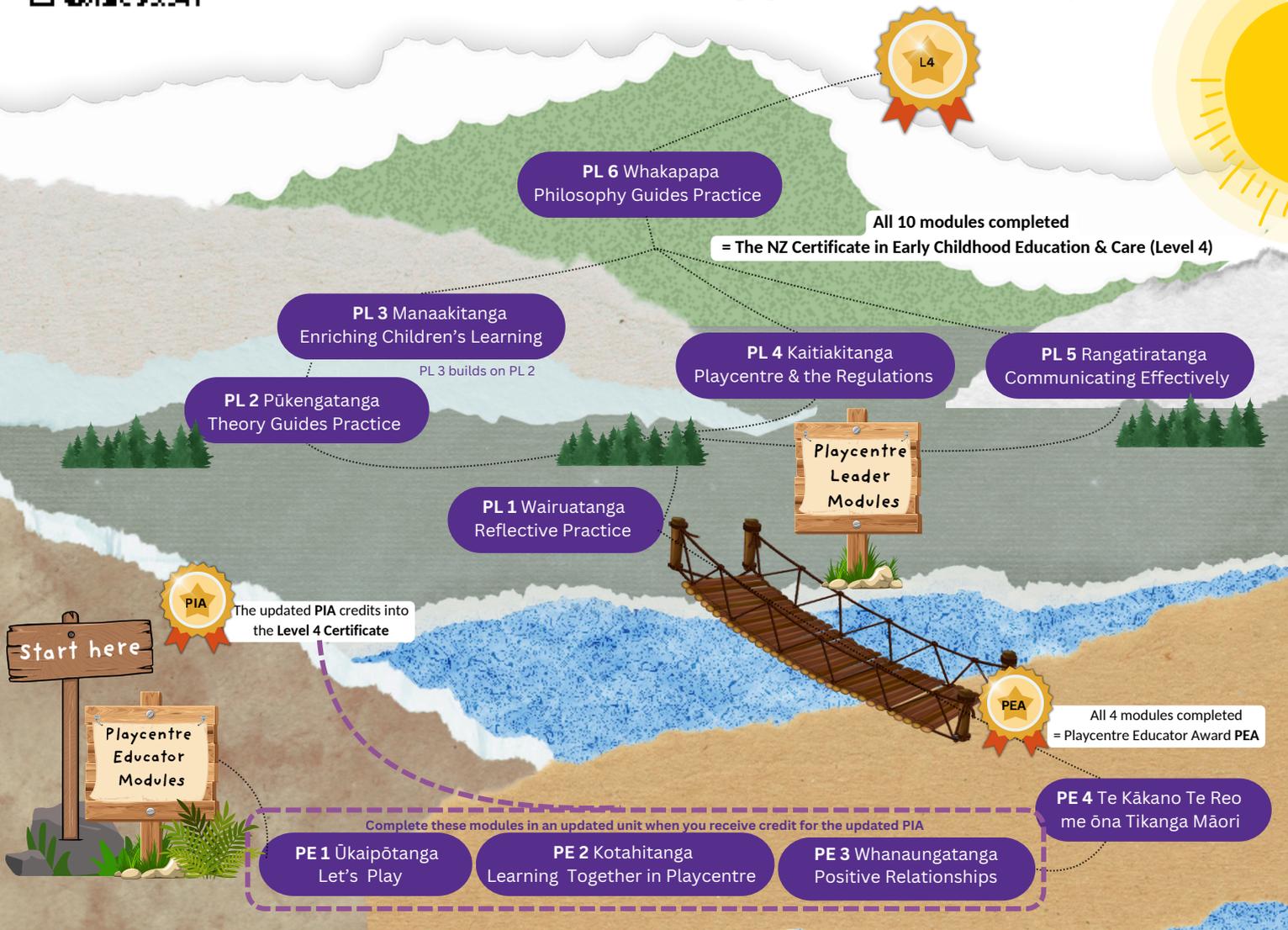
## Programme Outline

Nau mai, haere mai ki Te Wāhanga Mātauranga,  
welcome to Playcentre Education!

Ready to get started?  
Find out more!



The Level 4 Certificate programme is designed as hands-on learning for parents, grandparents & caregivers to upskill as parents and kaiako (educators.) A key part of the programme is participating in Playcentre sessions as kaiako, and this can be completed with your tamariki children alongside you. The programme includes ten small modules, grouped into the **Playcentre Educator (PE)** & **Playcentre Leader (PL)** modules. Within the L4 certificate, the **Playcentre Educator Award (PEA)** is awarded along the way. The **Playcentre Primary Teacher Bridging Award** is a stepping-stone award for NZ primary teachers. These internal awards are recognised as part of Playcentre's licensing and funding agreements with the Ministry of Education.



“Whānau tupu ngātahi – families growing together”

Playcentre

# Module Delivery Options

There are three delivery options available: face-to-face, webinar and online self-directed. The content of each module determines the type of delivery available, with at least one online delivery option available for all modules. You can choose different formats for different modules.

- **Face-to-face workshops.** Small group interactive workshops in local Playcentres across Aotearoa New Zealand. Each workshop is 2.5hrs however sometimes workshops are scheduled 2-3 per day at the weekends to make the most of travel time.
- **Webinar workshops.** Online small group interactive workshops held via Microsoft Teams. Each workshop is 2.5hrs and the webinars are usually scheduled weekly at the same time.
- **Online self-directed learning.** Self-paced, online learning using the iQualify platform. This format includes online reading, videos to watch, exercises to complete and online discussions with other ākonga and your tutor.

The workshops and online sections are comparable so if you miss a face-to-face or webinar option, you can make it up by attending the same section face-to-face, webinar or iQualify as available.

Online - SD PE1  
Composite module PE2  
for those with PE3  
updated PIA

F2F PE4  
Online - W PL5

Online - SD  
PL1 PL2 PL3 PL4 PL6

## FLEXIBLE LEARNING OPTIONS KEY

- **F2F** face to face workshops
  - **Online - SD** (self-directed via iQualify)
  - **Online - W** (interactive webinars)
- Chromebooks available to loan for online learning

## Practicum on Playcentre Sessions

The practicum requirement of the certificate includes participation in Playcentre sessions as a kaiako for 40 full sessions (e.g. one session per week over a school year, or a shorter timeframe if attending multiple sessions). Participation in the practicum includes being involved in setting up the session, participating as kaiako throughout the session and being involved in any end-of-session tasks such as planning for future sessions. It also includes participating in activities between sessions that are part of being a Playcentre kaiako like writing learning stories and communicating with whānau.

Participation in Babies Can Play and Space (play term) can be counted towards the practicum requirement for up to 32 sessions however participation in a mixed age environment is required for at least 8 sessions. Alternative practicum arrangements can be made on a case-by-case basis for ākonga participating as a kaiako in certificated playgroups, as homebased carers or in other roles within Playcentre or another ECE.

## Other Requirements

All ākonga must have completed a first aid certificate within 3 years of the certificate being awarded and have a current satisfactory safety check and police vet as per the Children's Act 2014.

## Timeframe

The programme has been designed to be completed over one year, with part-time learning and steady progress. This aligns with the practicum requirements (e.g. one session per week over a school year). We know that most participants are multi-tasking parents and it is fine to take breaks between modules to fit study around family and life commitments. Most ākonga can complete comfortably in 12-18 months with part-time study and regular participation at Playcentre. The minimum completion time is 5 months.

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## PE1 Ūkaipōtanga - Let's Play

- The importance of learning through play
- Setting up portfolios/profile books
- Our role in guiding and supporting children's learning through play
- Hands on ideas for setting up & supporting play at home and at Playcentre

5 credits each

Online - SD



When entering the programme with the updated PIA, these are offered as a composite unit worth 8 credits

## PE2 Kotahitanga - Learning Together in Playcentre

- Inclusion and celebrating cultural diversity
- Health, safety and wellbeing practices to keep tamariki safe
- Working together at Playcentre

## PE3 Whanaungatanga - Positive Relationships

- Creating positive environments - setting the scene for success
- Building solid relationships and communicating effectively
- Understanding how tamariki learn emotional regulation and social skills
- Supporting tamariki through heightened emotions & challenging behaviours

## PE4 Te Kākano - Te Reo me ōna Tikanga Māori

- The importance of revitalising te reo Māori for our tamariki
- Basic pronunciation - words and phrases to use at home and at Playcentre
- Te Ao Māori principles that underpin learning and growing together
- Waiata songs, pūrākau stories and kemu games

5 credits

F2F

Online - W



All 4 modules completed  
= Playcentre Educator Award PEA





After achieving the PEA, all continuing learners start with

### PL1 Wairuatanga - Reflective Practice

- Looking after your own wellbeing and building resilience
- Reflecting on your own skills as a kaiako and next steps for growth
- Optional study skills section



5 credits

Online - SD

### PL2 Pūkengatanga - Theory Guides Practice

### PL3 Manaakitanga - Enriching Children's Learning

- PL2 delves deeper into children's learning, exploring multi-cultural learning & development theories related to tamariki 0-6 years.
- PL3 builds on PL2, exploring *Te Whāriki* in-depth, looking at planning and assessment in Playcentre and putting it all into practice by supporting a child's learning over a period of time and making changes to improve the learning environment.



7 credits

8 credits

Online - SD

### PL4 Kaitiakitanga - Playcentre & the Regulations

- This module unpacks the compliance requirements Playcentre has to meet under Ministry of Education licensing.
- It also explores ethical dilemmas - what should you do at Playcentre if there isn't a black or white solution to a problem and where to go for further support.

8 credits

Online - SD

### PL5 Rangatiratanga - Communicating Effectively

Great for everyone in or thinking about stepping into leadership roles in Playcentre eg session coordinators, presidents, leadership teams, curriculum leaders. We cover:

- Understanding how groups work
- Skills to support you as a rangatira leader
- Mihi whakatau and poroaki processes
- Effective meeting facilitation

7 credits

F2F

Online - W

### PL6 Whakapapa - Philosophy Guides Practice

The final module of the certificate, pulling together all of the learning so far and looking at Playcentre within the wider ECE context.

5 credits

Online - SD

### Practicum and First Aid

Much of the learning happens by participating as a kaiako on Playcentre sessions. 40 Sessions are required to complete the Level 4 certificate, plus a first aid certificate and current safety check.



All 10 modules completed =

**The NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education & Care (Level 4)**

# Fees and Resources

Playcentre Education offers the NZ Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4) as a Zero Fees course. There are no tuition costs and all resources are provided. A limited number of Chromebooks are available on loan to online learners.



## Eligibility to Enrol

Because the certificate is a national qualification and is funded by the Tertiary Education Commission, there are some eligibility requirements to enrol. You must:

- Be at least 17 years old.
- Complete a safety check as per the Children's Act 2014. It will be carried out confidentially.
- The certificate is an English-language qualification – a sufficient level of English is required to study at Level 4.
- Be actively participating as a kaiako in Playcentre (or another approved early learning context)
- Have successfully completed the Playcentre Introductory Award (PIA)
- Provide evidence that you are a 'domestic student.'

A 'domestic student' is a citizen of New Zealand (including students from the Cook Islands, Tokelau, or Niue) or a person who holds a New Zealand resident class visa or a citizen of Australia or holder of a resident visa for Australia who is residing in NZ. Playcentre Education cannot enrol non-domestic (international) students. This also applies to non-residents in NZ on a work or visitor visa. Other providers are accredited to accept international students. Please contact the Education team to discuss options for whānau who do not meet eligibility requirements.

## How to Enrol

Playcentre whānau will receive information about how to enrol upon completion of the updated Playcentre Introductory Award. Home-based educators looking to enrol with Playcentre Education should contact the Playcentre Education Student Support Team directly.

Ready to get started?  
Find out more!



## Additional Support

Playcentre Education offers a learner-centred programme, with flexible delivery options, small group learning and individualised support. If you have additional learning needs or learning differences and would like to find out what support we can provide, please contact the Education Team to kōrero.

## For More Information...

Check out the Learn with Us tab on the Playcentre website, including the Ākonga Information Handbook, or contact the Playcentre Education Student Support Team.