

Getting started in early learning and care

The early years are a critical time for children's development as their brains and bodies are growing rapidly. You can play a big role in little lives by supporting each child on their learning journey to build strong foundations for social and academic success in the present and the future. It's important work that truly makes a difference in children's and families' lives.

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Types of roles

There's a wide range of roles within the early learning sector and many opportunities to develop and progress. It's a dynamic and lifechanging career.

Educators

Create inspiring, interesting and age-appropriate learning environments and opportunities for every child to reach their potential. They inspire curiosity for children to create and explore their environment.

Minimum qualification required:

- Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care

Lead educators

Lead the development and implementation of an effective educational program in the service. They provide advice and support to other educators, to build an effective early learning team.

Minimum qualification required:

- Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care

Early Childhood Teacher

Deliver preschool/kindergarten programs to children in the two years before they start school. They support children's learning to develop new concepts, skills and positive attitudes to learning.

Minimum qualification required:

- Bachelor of Early Childhood Education

Manager/Director

Monitor and assess the performance of their early learning and care service, ensuring that it meets the National Quality Standard. They build a strong team of educators and support staff and they work with parents to understand the best ways to support their children.

Minimum qualification required:

- Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care

Study Options

Choose your own pathway into an early learning career. You can work while studying - and you can even start studying while you're still at school.

Vocational study

The fastest way to become qualified to work as an early childhood educator is through vocational study.

Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care

Typically takes less than one year to complete and can be undertaken as part of a traineeship, meaning you work while studying part-time.

Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care

Takes up to two years to complete. You will need a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care in order to gain entry to the Diploma course.

University study

Find the university course that's right for you by visiting www.coursesseeker.edu.au

Bachelor Degree

Many universities (and some training organisations) offer a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education. This is a four-year degree (full-time).

Graduate Diploma

If you already have a bachelor degree (in any field), you may be able to undertake a Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education. This will take one year and qualifies you as an early childhood teacher.

Did you know?

Many early learning and care providers offer traineeships, so you can work as an educator while you gain your qualification.

