

The Open Polytechnic is now offering a new 60 credit qualification; NZ2850, the New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4). This is an open enrolment programme which means that students can enrol any time. There will be a course starting on the first Monday of each month.

Career Opportunities

This programme of study has been developed in consultation with the New Zealand Homebased Early Childhood Education Association and Barnardos New Zealand to ensure it meets the requirements of the homebased ECE sector.

By gaining the New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4), you will not only meet the Ministry of Education requirement for homebased educators to hold a level 4 ECE qualification, all graduates will be equipped to work with children and families in a range of early childhood settings including working under the supervision of registered teachers in early childhood education centres and homebased settings, as a nanny or as a playgroup coordinator, in puna reo, if you speak Māori, or in other language immersion settings if you are a speaker of another language.

This qualification is an ideal starting point for students wanting to gain academic skills and knowledge and an understanding of early childhood education in Aotearoa New Zealand. The qualification will also support entry into the New Zealand Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 5).

Course structure

The 60 credit programme consists of three, 20 credit courses. Students enrol in one course at a time. You have up to 20 weeks to complete each course.

COURSE CODE	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
EDU403	Early Childhood Practice for Young Children's Wellbeing	20
EDU404	Understanding Young Children's Learning and Development	20
EDU405	Professional Practice for Early Childhood Education and Care	20

Workplace component

There is a practical workplace component for each course requiring you to attend an early childhood setting for a minimum of three hours a week.

Computer and online access

The programme is specifically designed for distant learners and is delivered on the Open Polytechnic iQualify learning platform. Students will need to access a computer, tablet, or smart phone with internet, MS word and email access to study this programme.

New Zealand Homebased Childcare Association member offer

Students who are financial individual members of the New Zealand Homebased Early Childhood Education Association will be able to access free* fees for this programme of study. You will need to provide your current membership number** on your enrolment application.

Applications for enrolments are accepted subject to receiving an acceptable Police Vetting report.

*The free fee arrangement includes the Open Polytechnic's annual administration fees.

** NZHBECEA Membership must be current for the duration of your studies; this may require a renewal of membership to ensure access to the fee free arrangement as you work through all three courses.

Register your interest now:

<https://www.openpolytechnic.ac.nz/service-forms/registration-of-interest-for-nz2850-new-zealand-certificate-in-early-childhood-education-and-care-level-4/>