

Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator)

Subject Area	Early Years & Childcare
Course Type	Adult
Study Level	Level 3
Delivery Mode	Part-time
Location	David Hockney Building
Duration	15 Months
Start Date	February 2026
Course Code	

Course Summary

This course will prepare you to become an Early Years Educator, enabling you to work with children from birth to 5 years and gain knowledge of children aged 5 to 7 years. This vocational route is ideal for mature learners who have some experience, either volunteering or working in early years, or may have their own children or some life experience. The course is open to learners aged 19-23, and 24+ and is offered as a part-time vocational route to Early Years Educator. You will need to attend College once a week (on a Friday) (in term-time) from 09.00-15.00 and will also be expected to complete independent study and assignment tasks in your own time. You will be supported to achieve your practical competencies in placement with workshop sessions when you attend College each week, which will be with your assessor. She will also visit you in your placement setting, at least once in each age group to observe your practice and assess competency. You need to experience different age groups within the 0-5 years range. The minimum requirement works out in full days as: 3-5 years: – 32 days 2 -2 years 11 months: – 22 days 0-1 year 11 months: – 6 days. We recommend two full days per week, however if you are working/volunteering you may be able to do more days/structure your time differently.

What You Will Learn

This qualification prepares learners to become Early Years Educators, enabling them to work with children from birth to 5 years and gain knowledge of children aged 5 to 7 years. Upon achievement of this qualification learners will be able to enter the workforce as Early Years Educators or access Higher Education.

Modules

There are 10 units:

- The role of the Early Years Educator
- Holistic child development
- Play & learning
- Effective communication
- Early Years curriculum,
- Assessment
- Partnerships
- Safeguarding
- Health, Safety & well being
- Special Educational Needs & Disability.

Entry Requirements

To start the Early Years Educator qualification, you will need GCSE Grade C/4 or above in English Language or Functional Skills Level 2 in English. Ideally you would have achieved the same qualifications/grades in Mathematics although you could work towards your Maths qualifications whilst also studying your Early Years qualification.

Assessment

To gain this qualification you will need to:

- Pass all Units (coursework/essays set and marked by unit tutors)
- Show competence in a real work environment (an assessor will observe your practice, have professional discussions with you and ask for work products and reflective accounts).
- Placements or voluntary work is required for achievement of this qualification.

Progression

Upon achievement of this qualification, you will be able to enter the workforce as an Early Years Educator at Level 3 to be included in the ratios. Please note English GCSE or equivalent is also required to count in ratios.