

Award in Child Care (0 – 3 years)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The overall objectives of this Award are to engage participants in learning what is relevant to their profession and to further develop a range of skills. Including techniques, personal skills and attributes necessary for a successful career in working with infants and young children including cultures and different needs. At the end of the course individuals may seek an occupation working in childcare centres as a child carer.

TARGET CANDIDATES

The course is intended for individuals who want to start a career in childcare or for individuals who are already working in childcare centres and want to further their knowledge and their career in childcare.

DURATION 18 months part time

CREDIT VALUE 60 ECTS

MODE OF TRAINING Learning will take place via a mix of lectures, group activities and discussions

MODE OF DELIVERY Online until the current Covid-19 situation persists

ASSESSMENT Assignments, Portfolio

AWARDING BODY Learning Works

CERTIFICATION Learning Works

LECTURERS

Mr. Aldo Busuttill

Ms. Lianne Cassar

Ms. Marie Claire Saliba

Ms. Henriette Saliba

Ms. Sharon Balzan

Mr. Joseph Balzan

COURSE STRUCTURE

MODULE 1: HEALTH AND SAFETY AT THE WORKPLACE AND THE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT (4 CREDITS)

This module deals with the employer's responsibility towards Health and Safety while pointing out the employee's responsibility too. In addition to caring for and educating babies, toddlers and young children, an early childhood educator needs to ensure that children are kept safe and secure. An awareness and understanding of health and safety issues is therefore a must. This unit aims to encourage prospective carers to understand the importance of health and safety measures in early years environments and their role in safeguarding children's health and keep them safe. The dangers of noncompliance are stated while emphasising the ways to communicate health and safety information. Risk assessment to reduce accidents and hazards form part of this module.

MODULE 2: TEAMWORK AND COMMUNICATION (4 CREDITS)

This module deals with benefits of teamwork, collaborative work and lines of reporting. It delves into features of effective teamwork and individual behaviours and qualities required for effective teamwork. It creates awareness of the need to develop positive relationships with colleagues and other professionals. Teamwork here also refers to encouraging children to play and learn with other children in the setting.

MODULE 3: COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS AND CARERS OF CHILDREN (4 CREDITS)

This module introduces the students to the notion of working in partnership with parents and families for the benefit and wellbeing of children under their care. It deals with appropriate verbal and nonverbal

communication and the type of communication that is acceptable according to GDPR guidelines. The student will have the opportunity to evaluate his own communication skills in terms of developing relationships.

MODULE 4: VALUE OF PLAY AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN (4 CREDITS)

This module deals with the value of play for each area of development including: physical, social, emotional, intellectual and language. It embraces a rights-based approach to play whereby play is regarded as a right of each child to interact with others and to experience recreational activities with others. Building on the premise supported by literature that play is a vehicle for learning, students will be exposed to the benefits, stages and types of play. Moreover, it gives examples of strategies and techniques to support children's play and ways in which adult interaction can extend learning and development.

MODULE 5: CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING (14 CREDITS)

This module deals with the holistic child development including the physical, cognitive, social, emotional, speech and language development for the first three years of life. Child development underpins every aspect of working with babies, toddlers and young children. Child care practitioners need to know theories and models of child development to be able to support children's play, learning and development. This module points out how each area of development interlink and rate and sequence of development which may vary due to various aspects.

MODULE 6: WORK PLACEMENT/PORTFOLIO OF EVIDENCE (30 CREDITS)

This module deals with practical exposure to the theory built on knowledge of theories of play and learning and children's development including physical, social and emotional, cognitive and language development. Students will be able to put into practice the theoretical knowledge, skills and competences developed over the course of the programme. They will have the opportunity to reflect on their own as well as collaboratively to evaluate and improve their practice through self-reflection and feedback provided by others.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates must be 18 years of age and are in possession of a relevant MQF Level 3 accredited award related to childcare or have at least 3-years' experience as a childcare worker assistant including a school leaving certificate. Candidates must be able to communicate in either English or Maltese. A proficiency numerical and literacy skills test together with a Police Conduct Certificate may also be required. (Mothers are also considered after sitting for an interview as part of the Maturity clause)

Candidates may be applying for recognition for prior learning (RPL) for up to 40% of the total credits of the award in accordance to NCFHE recommendations.

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