



Student Information For SCHOOL AGE EDUCATION AND CARE

What do I need to know?

There are over 1000 services in NSW providing before, after and vacation care. The nationally recognised Certificate IV in School Age Education and Care qualification provides the knowledge and skills for working in the outside school hours sector (previously known as Outside School Hours Care).

Undertaking the Certificate IV in School Age Education and Care while at school provides the opportunity to work in the sector while gaining the qualification. It is a pathway to higher education, as an alternative to ATAR and can be linked to a sport and recreation career and education pathway.

Is this course for me?

Before selecting the Certificate IV in School Age Education and Care the following are important attributes for a career in this sector. Consider if you are:

- Self-motivated?
- Interested in 5-12 years school age children?
- Committed to working in the sector?
- An independent learner?
- Able to do written and practical assessments?
- A team worker?
- Interested in working in diverse communities?
- Able to multitask and use initiative?
- Good communicator?
- Organised and enthusiastic?

What will I learn?

- Activities and experiences for children 5-12 years
- How to communicate and collaborate with children
- How to encourage responsible behaviour
- How to plan for the development of skills
- WHS requirements
- Provide a range of play, social interaction and recreation activities for children to grow and learn socially as well as physically
- Depending on the age group of the children, work may include planning age appropriate individual and group activities, providing care needs and facilitating their leisure and play.

What will I be doing?

- Assessed on both written and practical work
- Will be attending classes and working in the out of school hours care sector
- Will be supervised at all times while at work
- Supported to develop and initiate experiences with the children indoors and out and across a range of developmental areas
- Respecting and collaborating with children
- Working in a team
- Responding to feedback.

Are there other requirements for School Age Education and Care work?

Some important things to know are:

- Employment expectations include appropriate dress for the job role and activities (no thongs or singlet tops, hair neat and tied up)
- Hours of work vary, shift work involved
- May require immunisations
- May need a Working with Children Check if over 18 years of age.

Are there other subjects that may help me while studying for the School Age Education and Care qualification?

For an School Age Education and Care career pathway the following subjects may be beneficial:

- Society and Culture
- Community and Family Studies
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- Creative Arts
 - Dance
 - Drama
 - Music 1
 - Music 2 and Music Extension
 - Visual Arts

Are there fees and costs?

If you are at a government high school the course cost is covered via the schools staffing allocation, this means that there is no direct cost to students. If you are at a non-government high school your school VET coordinator will explain about the different costs involved.