



# Student Information For EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

## What do I need to know?

Children's services work, now known as Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), involves providing early childhood education and care services for children from birth through to and including school age. You may be working in a number of different settings such as pre-school, long day care, family day care and mobile services.

Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care is a head start in an educating and teaching career. Working in ECEC sector is expanding and over the coming years employment opportunities will be plentiful at entry level. The skills and knowledge in an ECEC qualification are a sound foundation to career progression and transferable to other roles in early childhood education and care.

## Is this course for me?

Before selecting the Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care the following are important attributes for a career in this sector. Consider if you:

- Self-motivated?
- Interested in 0-6 years 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?

- Knowledge of child development
- Legal and ethical responsibilities when caring for and educating children
- Creating safe learning environments engaging infants and toddlers
- Participate responsibility in the work environment
- Communication skills to interact with families, children and co-workers
- First aid and WHS including sun safety (hats, sunscreen)

## What will I be doing?

Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care can be delivered as a VETIS pathway, requiring 105 hours work placement over 2 years. It is now possible to study for the Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care as a school based trainee while completing the HSC. You will work part-time in paid employment at a licensed early education and child care service for a minimum of 100 days to gain on the job training and the off the job component of the qualification is provided by a Registered Training Organisation.

You'll be learning how to care for children in an ECEC organisation. This includes providing care for babies and children, supporting their developmental needs, providing experiences for children's play and learning and ensuring the children's health and safety. You will also learn good communication skills to work effectively with others in the children's services team.

You will also be:

- assessed on both written and practical work
- attending classes and working in the sector
- supervised at all times while at work
- interacting with children, babies, staff and families
- assisting children's learning
- respecting and collaborating with children
- working in a team including maintaining the environment and cleaning, changing nappies, laundry and food preparation areas
- multitasking and doing physically active work
- working with children, staff, parents from a broad range of cultural backgrounds
- assisting children to be safe and healthy.

## Are there other requirements for ECEC work?

Some important things to know are:

- You will be responsible for turning up to work and working within the industry guidelines and workplace policies
- You will need vaccinations
- If you are over 18 years of age you will need a Working with Children Check
- Working in this sector requires appropriate dress (may be uniform eg white shirt and black pants but no low jeans, short skirts, etc) closed shoes, no jewellery, short nails, respectful language

## **Are there other subjects that may help me while studying for the ECEC qualification?**

For an Early Childhood 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
- Exploring Early Childhood

## **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.