

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



NEW
for 2027!

Start Your Journey in Early Childhood Education

Interested in working with tamariki/young children and helping them learn, grow, and feel confident? This programme is a great starting point if you are thinking about a future in early childhood education, teaching, education support, or working with tamariki/young children and whānau.

You will explore how tamariki/young children learn through play, relationships, communication, and safe, positive environments. You will also learn about child development, health and safety, professional responsibilities, and Te Whāriki, the early childhood curriculum used in Aotearoa New Zealand.

You will develop useful skills, get a taste of what early childhood education is like, and see whether this is a pathway you would like to continue after school.

You can gain credits towards NCEA and build a useful foundation for further study in early childhood education, teaching, education support, or related areas.

What you will learn:

- How tamariki/young children learn, grow, and develop.
- The importance of play in early childhood education.
- Building positive relationships with children and whānau.
- Health, safety and wellbeing in ECE settings.
- What it means to work professionally and responsibly with children.
- Te Whāriki, the early childhood curriculum in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Career pathways in education and community services.

Course details



Vocational Pathway:

Social and
Community Services



Credits:

Level 2 and 3
Up to 27 credits



Duration:

1 year programme preparing
students for employment
or further study in Early
Childhood Education and
related fields.

Starts: February 2027

Finishes: November 2027



Timetable:

9am - 3pm Thursdays
or Fridays



Provider:

Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Employment options

- Early childhood centre assistant
- Playgroup or community early learning support worker
- Teacher aide or learning support assistant
- Nanny or Home-based Educator
- Family and Community Support Worker

Further study options

- New Zealand Certificate in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 4)
- New Zealand Certificate in Education Support (Level 4)
- New Zealand Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care (Level 5)
- Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood Education)
- Bachelor of Teaching (Primary Education)