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Teaching & Childcare

NCFE CACHE accredited qualifications

Early years, teaching assistant and childcare qualifications accepted by schools, nurseries and Ofsted-registered settings.

AT A GLANCE

Levels	Level 2 to Level 5
Awarding body	NCFE CACHE
Duration	3 to 18 months
Study mode	100% online
Funding	Pay monthly available

TRUSTED BY 4.5 MILLION+ LEARNERS

NCFE CACHE

Ofsted aligned

DfE recognised

Speak to a course advisor

Free advice, no obligation. Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 6:00pm.

CALL US ON
01202 006 464

In plain English

Q. Which teaching or childcare qualification do I need?

Choose your qualification by the role and age group you want to work with. Teaching and childcare qualifications are tiered by setting and role. Early Years (birth to 5) is regulated by Ofsted and requires Level 2 or Level 3 EYE-recognised qualifications. School-age teaching support requires CAVA, supporting teaching and learning qualifications, or PGCE for qualified teacher status. SEN and assessing qualifications are Level 3 to Level 5 specialist routes.

Inside this guide

A 30-page guide covering every recognised route into UK education, with salary data and qualification mapping.

- Early Years, Teaching Assistant, and SEN routes side by side
- Ofsted-recognised qualifications explained
- Salary data for 10 common education roles
- How CAVA opens up assessor roles in any sector

Three routes into education Match your goal to the recognised qualification framework for that role.

STEP 1 STEP 2 STEP 3

Early Years (0–5) Schools (5–18) SEN & Specialist Level 2 Diploma for Early Level 2 and 3 Supporting Level 3 and Level 5 SEN Years Practitioners is the Teaching and Learning qualifications are designed entry route for nursery qualifications prepare you for for SENCOs and specialist assistants. Level 3 Diploma teaching assistant roles. The support staff. The Level 5 for the Early Years Workforce Level 3 CAVA (Certificate in Diploma in Specialist Support (EYE) is the qualification Assessing Vocational for Teaching and Learning is Ofsted requires for room Achievement) is required for the standard SENCO entry leaders and the EYE workplace assessors. route. Educator role.

Why study Teaching & Childcare with learndirect

100% online, fully flexible Study from anywhere, anytime. No commute, no classroom hours. Designed to fit around full-time work, parenting, and shift patterns.

Tutor support throughout

Dedicated subject specialists mark your assignments, answer your questions, and guide you from enrolment to certificate.

Pay monthly with 0% interest Spread your fees across 9, 12 or 24 months with no credit checks and no hidden charges. Start your course today, settle the rest later.

Trusted by 25,000+ Trustpilot reviewers learndirect is one of the UK's largest and most established online learning providers, with a five-star rating across thousands of independent reviews.

Recognised qualifications

Every course leads to a regulated certificate from a UK awarding body, ready to share with employers, universities, or professional bodies.

Courses in Teaching & Childcare

This faculty currently offers 19 regulated qualifications. Prices below are full one-off fees. All courses also offer 0% monthly payment plans spread across 9, 12 or 24 months.

Course Awarding body From

NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early

NCFE CACHE £1,495.99

Years Sector (Ea...

NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching

NCFE CACHE £899.99

and Learning (RQF)

Level 5 Diploma in Teaching (Further Education and

TQUK £1,399

Skills)

NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Supporting Teaching

NCFE CACHE £599.99

and Learning (RQF)

Higher Level Teaching Assistants (RQF) Level 4

Focus Awards £649.99

Certificate

NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Supporting

NCFE CACHE £699.99

Teaching and Learning

Teaching Assistant: Level 2 Certificate in Supporting

NCFE CACHE £999.99

Teaching and L...

Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement

VTCT £799.99

(CAVA) (RQF) Level 3

Teaching Assistant: NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award in

NCFE CACHE £519.99

Support Work in Scho...

Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special

Skills & Education G... £529.99 Educational Needs (...)

Special Educational Needs (SEN) - Advanced UNKNOWN £349.99

Level 2 Certificate in Introducing Caring for Children and

TQUK £499.99

Young Peo...

Certificate in Advice and Guidance (RQF) Level 3 NVQ BIIAB £599.99

Certificate in Education and Training (RQF) Level 4 Innovate Awarding £799.99

Course Awarding body From

Supporting Teaching and Learning (Bilingual Teaching

NCFE CACHE £769.99

Assistant) Leve...

NCFE CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in

NCFE CACHE £249.99

Schools

Children and Young People's Workforce Early Learning

UNKNOWN £329.99

and Childcare L...

Child Psychology UNKNOWN £349.99

Preparing to Work in Home Based Childcare CACHE

NCFE CACHE £329.99

Award Level 3 (RQF)

See the full live list at pathways.learndirect.com/faculties/teaching-childcare.

How payment works

Option How it works Best for

Pay in full Single one-off payment when you enrol. Learners who want the simplest option.

9-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 9 months. 0% interest. Most popular. Lines up with course duration.

12-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 12 months. 0% interest. Lower monthly outlay.

24-month plan Equal monthly instalments over 24 months. 0% interest. Longest, smallest monthly cost.

No interest, no credit checks, no hidden fees. If you ever want to pay off your balance early, you can settle the remainder at any time at no extra cost.

Frequently asked questions

Q. Is Level 3 Early Years recognised by Ofsted?

Yes, provided you choose an EYE-recognised qualification. learndirect's Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce is on the DfE's Early Years Educator approved list and is accepted as a full and relevant qualification for staff ratios.

Q. Can I be a teaching assistant with a Level 2?

Yes. A Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning is the standard entry qualification for a teaching assistant role. Many schools also accept candidates working towards Level 3 alongside an entry role.

Q. What is CAVA and who needs it?

The Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement (CAVA) is the recognised qualification for workplace assessors. If you assess apprentices, NVQs, or vocational qualifications, CAVA is the qualification most employers and awarding bodies require.

Q. Can I become a SENCO with these qualifications?

The Level 5 Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning is a recognised entry qualification for SEN coordinator (SENCO) roles in many settings. Some schools also require the National Award for SEN Coordination (NASENCO).

Q. How long does Level 3 Early Years take?

Most learners complete Level 3 in 12 to 18 months on a part-time basis. Faster completion is possible if you can dedicate more study hours per week, or if you have relevant prior experience that maps to the units.

Q. Do I need a placement?

Yes, for early years and teaching support qualifications. You need access to a real-world setting (nursery, school, or similar) to complete the workplace evidence units. We do not arrange placements for you.

Q. Will these qualifications get me into a PGCE?

A Level 3 or Level 5 qualification on its own is not enough to start a PGCE. To begin a PGCE you typically need a Bachelor's degree plus GCSEs in English, Maths, and (for primary) Science. Our qualifications can build your CV and demonstrate sector commitment.

Take the next step in education Speak to an adviser about which qualification fits the role you want and where you want to teach.

Speak to an advisor: 0800 101 901 | pathways.learndirect.com

This guide was prepared by content may change. For the latest details visit pathways.learndirect.com.