About this course

Early Childhood Education and Care is an expanding sector for those with a passion for the care and education of young children up to the age of 5 years. The sector is demanding higher qualifications and training from educators to ensure consistently high standards of education and care for children placed in these services. This can be achieved by completing the Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care.

When completing the Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care you will:

- Learn to interact and foster the development of young children
- Work within legal requirements
- Ensure children’s health and safety is prioritised
- Work with children of different backgrounds and cultures
- Provide support to children in different child care environments
- Undertake work placement to apply the practical skills and knowledge you have learned

Students are required to obtain a Working with Children Check before attending work placement.
This qualification is directly aligned with priority industry areas where the jobs are today, and into the future. As part of the state government *Lower fees, local skills* initiative, from 1 January 2020 through to 31 December 2021 you'll only pay half the course fees, capped at $1,200; or $400 if you're aged 15—24 or eligible for a concession. [Find out more.]

## Overview

### Entrance requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Leaver</th>
<th>Non-School Leaver</th>
<th>AQF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OLNA or NAPLAN 9 Band 8</td>
<td>C Grades in Year 10 English and Maths or equivalent</td>
<td>Certificate I or Certificate II</td>
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This course is available as a traineeship.

### Entrance requirements for traineeships

You must be employed in a training contract by an appropriate organisation to study an apprenticeship or traineeship.

In a traineeship you also gain hands-on skills and work experience, and improve your employment prospects, while earning a wage. On successful completion you will gain a nationally recognised qualification which can lead to rewarding career options. The difference between a traineeship and an apprenticeship is that a traineeship can be either a full time or part time employment based training arrangement, usually for a nominal duration of 12 months or more, generally in a non-trade related area.

To find out how to arrange a traineeship and study at South Metropolitan TAFE, please contact the [Jobs and Skills Centre](#) closest to you.

## Study pathway

- [Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care](#)
- [Certificate IV in School Age Education and Care](#)
Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care

Certificate III in Education Support

Certificate IV in Education Support

Certificate III in Community Services

Certificate III in Individual Support (Disability)

Certificate IV in Community Services

Certificate IV in Ageing Support

Certificate IV in Disability

Certificate IV in Mental Health

Certificate IV in Youth Work

Diploma of Community Services

Diploma of Youth Work
Job opportunities

Child carer  Child care worker  Family day care worker  Nanny

Please note this list should be used as a guide only as job titles and qualification requirements may vary between organisations.

SM TAFE actively promotes the employment availability of course graduates to key industry partners and organisations. We also seek expressions of interest from organisations for the placement of our students into work experience. In addition, this course involves work placement, giving you further opportunity to develop relationships with potential employers. We endeavour to assist students into a career pathway, but please be aware that employment is not guaranteed by us.

To access free career planning and job search assistance, visit the Jobs and Skills Centres page.

Fees and charges

Indicative fees and charges

2020 general admission fees list
2020 apprenticeship/traineeship fees list

Fees and charges published on our website are indicative. Your fees will depend on your eligibility for government funding or a concession rate, and the units you choose to study or seek to be recognised under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Our Indicative fees lists show fees that are:

- Based on the full possible study plan of units, including the recommended electives
- Based on full time study in 2019
- Charged at the government funded rate for over 18 years of age students
- Based on unit electives designed to meet localised industry demand for skills
- Made up of course fees and resource fees, or RPL fees. Course fees are the cost of your tuition, while resource fees pay for consumables provided to you to aid your study (such as printing and paper). You may also be required to purchase text books or equipment that are not part of our tuition or resource fees.

Fees may vary between students and between educational providers. Other charges may apply.

Visit our Fees and payment options page for more information.

Call 1800 001 001 to get a more accurate fee indication based on your eligibility and study plan before applying.
VET Student Loans

Selected courses are VET Student Loan eligible courses.

A VET Student Loan creates a debt that must be repaid to the Commonwealth and is only available to students who are eligible.

To find out if you are eligible or to see the list of eligible courses visit our Student Loans page.

International students

Selected courses are available to International students for full time study only.

Fees, charges, available locations, applications and enrolment procedures for International students are different to those for students who have Australian permanent residency.

For more information or to find a course visit the TAFE International WA website.

Apprenticeships and traineeships

Fees for apprenticeships and traineeships are charged at a rate per nominal hour of study.

This means that your fees will vary depending on the units you study as part of your training plan.

Apprentices and trainees are liable to pay for their own fees but some industrial agreements (awards) dictate that employers are required to reimburse their apprentice upon receipt of satisfactory progress. An employer may also opt to pay on behalf of the apprentice or trainee.

For more information visit our Apprenticeships and traineeships page.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) enrolments are charged at $3.25 per nominal hour of study.

No concession fees apply to RPL enrolments. Refer to the institutional or apprenticeship/traineeship fee lists for an indicative RPL course fee.

Please note, fees are subject to change.