



BCONSULT

Occupational Certificate

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONER

NQF Level 4 | SAQA ID 97542 | 131 Points | 12 Months

Early Childhood Development Practitioner – NQF Level 4

SAQA ID: 97542 | Credits: 131 | Duration: 12-month | QCTO Learnership

1. Course Overview

The **Occupational Certificate: Early Childhood Development Practitioner** equips learners with the knowledge, practical skills, and workplace experience required to provide high-quality care and education for young children from birth to school-going age.

This qualification prepares practitioners to plan and deliver inclusive, play-based learning experiences; observe and assess children's development; promote their health, safety, and well-being; and engage with families and communities to support holistic growth.

It responds to South Africa's need for competent professionals in early learning and care across centre-based and non-centre-based settings, supporting national priorities for child development and education.

2. Learning Outcomes

On completion, learners will be able to:

- Plan and prepare stimulating learning environments and activities to meet the holistic needs of all children.
- Facilitate and mediate daily programmes that encourage play, exploration, and active learning.
- Observe, assess, and document children's progress according to developmental stages.
- Compile professional reports on each child's growth and learning.
- Maintain and promote children's health, safety, nutrition, protection, and overall well-being.

KNOWLEDGE MODULES

Curriculum Code	Knowledge Module	NQF Level	Credits
234201000-KM-01	Introduction to the early childhood development sector	4	4
234201000-KM-02	Theories and Perspectives of Child Development	5	6
234201000-KM-03	Planning and Programme Development in early childhood settings	4	8
234201000-KM-04	Facilitation and mediation of active learning	5	12
234201000-KM-05	Build and maintain collaborative relationships with parents and other service providers	4	3
234201000-KM-06	Promotion of health, safety and well-being of children	4	6

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234201000-KM-07	Administration for early childhood development services and programmes	3	3
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PRACTICAL SKILLS MODULES

Curriculum Code	Practical Skills Module	NQF Level	Credits
234201000-PM-01	Plan and prepare inclusive educational activities and routines using an approved programme based on the curriculum framework	4	12
234201000-PM-02	Facilitate and mediate active learning in an integrated and holistic learning programme	5	9
234201000-PM-03	Observe, assess, record and report each child's progress according to the age and stage	4	4
234201000-PM-04	Support and promote the health, nutrition, safety, protection and well-being of children	4	12
234201000-PM-05	Build and maintain collaborative relationships with parents and other service providers	4	3
234201000-PM-06	Prepare and maintain administrative systems	3	3

WORKPLACE MODULES

Curriculum Code	Workplace Module	NQF Level	Credits
234201000-WM-01	Learning programme and routines planning and preparation process	4	13
234201000-WM-02	Processes of facilitating and mediating the learning programme in a variety of contexts	4	15
234201000-WM-03	Processes of observation, assessment, recording and reporting on children's learning and development	4	7
234201000-WM-04	Processes and procedures of promoting the health, nutrition, safety, protection and well-being of children in an early childhood development setting	4	10

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3. A Qualified Learner Will Be Able To:

- Implement inclusive learning programmes for children from birth to school-going age.
- Support children’s physical, emotional, cognitive, and social development.
- Apply observation and assessment tools to inform learning opportunities and interventions.
- Build positive relationships with parents, guardians, and other professionals.
- Uphold standards of health, safety, and child protection in line with legislation and centre policies.
- Reflect on practice to continuously improve the quality of early childhood services.

Entry Requirements

To enrol in this qualification, learners must have:

- A **National Certificate (Vocational) at NQF Level 3, OR**
- Any other recognised **NQF Level 3** qualification.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):

Applicants with relevant workplace experience or prior studies may gain access or credit through RPL, in line with QCTO and provider policies.

4. International Comparability

This qualification compares favourably with global best practices for Early Childhood Education:

- **United States of America:** Aligns with competencies for early childhood professionals across child development, curriculum design, assessment, and family engagement.
- **United Kingdom:** Comparable to the **CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care**, focusing on holistic child development, safeguarding, and professional practice.
- **Kenya:** Matches the **CACHE Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce**, delivered through blended learning and emphasising health, well-being, and school readiness.

The structure, scope, and duration of the South African qualification align with these international standards, ensuring relevance and portability of skills.

5. Occupational Trainer – NQF Level 4 Certification

- **Occupational Certificate: Early Childhood Development Practitioner (SAQA ID 97542)**
- **NQF Level 4 (131 Credits)**
- **Completion of Foundational Learning Competence (FLC) is a prerequisite for entry into the external summative assessment.**

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6. Potential Career Opportunities

Graduates can pursue employment or entrepreneurial opportunities in the early childhood development sector, including roles such as:

- Early Childhood Development (ECD) Practitioner
- Nursery School or Daycare Teacher
- Playgroup or Crèche Leader
- Community-based ECD Facilitator
- ECD Centre Owner/Manager
- Support Practitioner in inclusive or special needs environments

This qualification also provides access to further learning, including:

- Higher Certificate in Early Childhood Development (NQF Level 5)
- Diploma in Grade R Teaching or related qualifications.

7. Learning Options

Accredited skills development providers offer this programme through a blend of:

- **Classroom-based training** (theory and practical skills)
- **Workplace experience** in registered ECD centres or community-based settings
- **Formative assessments** leading to an **external integrated summative assessment** conducted by the QCTO Assessment Quality Partner.

Delivery may include face-to-face sessions, workplace mentoring, and online learning, depending on the provider.

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