

# NCFE T level in Education and Early Years

## What is a T-Level?

- T-Levels are new, high-quality technical qualifications equivalent to 3 A-Levels.
- They combine classroom theory, practical learning, and an extended industry placement.
- Designed in collaboration with leading employers to ensure you gain the skills and knowledge that businesses need.
- A T-Level is a clear pathway to skilled employment, higher apprenticeships, or university.

## Entry level:

To be considered to study on this course you will need to achieve a GCSE grade:

4 in English language

4 in Mathematics

**You do not need to have studied health and social at GCSE to apply for this course.**

## Why Choose NCFE Education and Early Years?

- This T-Level provides a solid foundation in the broad education and early years sector..
- Education and Early years is an important career as it moulds the futures of our next generation.
- You will develop expertise in educational practices, educational legislation and the national curriculum.
- This specialism opens doors to diverse and in-demand careers in education and early year settings.

## Core Component (Year 1)

In your first year, you focus on the foundational knowledge required for the entire education sector (ages 0–19). You will cover 12 key elements:

- **Child Development:** How children grow physically, intellectually, and emotionally.
- **Safeguarding & Health:** Protecting children's wellbeing and managing safety.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND):** Supporting inclusive learning.
- **The Wider Context:** How the education system works in the UK.
- **Behaviour Management:** Understanding and supporting positive behavior.
- **Equality and Diversity:** Promoting fair treatment and inclusion.
- **Working with Others:** Partnering with parents, carers, and agencies.

**Assessment:**

- **Two written exams** (External).
- **An Employer-Set Project (ESP):** A real-world task where you apply your knowledge to a specific scenario provided by industry experts.

**Occupational Specialisms (Year 2)**

Specialism	Focus Area	Career Path
Early Years Educator	Working with children aged 0–5.	Nursery Teacher, Preschool Practitioner.

**Assessment:**

- **Synoptic Assignments:** These are practical, case-study-based assessments that test your hands-on skills

**Industry Placement**

This is the "heart" of the T Level. Unlike traditional work experience, this is a substantial placement.

- **Early Years Educator:** Requires a minimum of **750 hours** (roughly 21 weeks). Completing this gives you a "license to practice," meaning you are legally qualified to work in a nursery immediately.

**Why Choose This Course?**

- **UCAS Points:** It carries the same weight as 3 A Levels, allowing you to apply for degrees in Primary Education, Childhood Studies, or Psychology.
- **Professional Status:** If you take the Early Years route, you gain your **Level 3 Early Years Educator** status upon graduation.
- **Practical Edge:** You spend roughly 20% of your time in a real workplace, building a CV before you even finish college.

**How You Will Be Assessed** Your T-Level qualification will be assessed through a combination of external examinations and practical assessments.

- **Core Component Assessments:**
  - **Two externally set and marked examinations:** These will assess your knowledge and understanding of the core educational principles.
  - **An Employer-set Project (ESP):** This is a practical project, externally assessed, where you demonstrate your ability to apply knowledge and skills to a realistic educational brief.
- **Occupational Specialism Assessment (Toolmaking):**
  - This will involve a series of practical assignments, observations, and potentially professional discussions, designed to assess your specialist toolmaking skills and knowledge. These are often graded by NCFE.
- **Industry Placement:**
  - Your performance and development during the industry placement will be reviewed and assessed based on evidence of your applied learning and professional behaviours.
- **Overall Grade:** Your final T-Level grade will be a Pass, Merit, Distinction, or Distinction\*, based on your performance across all components.

### **Progression Opportunities**

Upon successful completion of your T-Level, you will have excellent opportunities for progression:

- **Skilled Employment:** Directly enter the education workforce in roles such as:

Once you have completed the **Early Years Educator** specialism, you receive a "**License to Practice.**" This means you are legally qualified to work in a ratio-counted role the day you finish.

- **Nursery Practitioner / Early Years Educator:** Working with children aged 0–5 in private or state nurseries.
  - **Teaching Assistant (TA):** Supporting teachers in primary or secondary schools, often focusing on literacy, numeracy, or 1-to-1 support.
  - **Special Educational Needs (SEN) Assistant:** Working specifically with children who have additional needs or disabilities.
  - **Nanny or Au Pair:** Working privately for families (often with higher pay than nursery roles if you have this specific Level 3 qualification).
  - **Learning Mentor:** Supporting students to overcome barriers to learning.
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- **Higher Apprenticeships:** Progress to advanced or degree-level apprenticeships in education and early years, allowing you to continue learning while earning.
    - **Early Years Lead Practitioner (Level 5):** Prepares you for management roles, like becoming a Nursery Manager.
    - **Teacher Apprenticeship:** Some schools now offer "earn-as-you-learn" routes to becoming a qualified teacher.
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- **Higher Education:** Apply for university degrees in a wide range of education and early years pathways, including:
    - **Primary Education with QTS:** The most popular route for those wanting to become a primary school teacher.
    - **Early Childhood Studies:** A deeper dive into the sociology, psychology, and policy of early years.
    - **Child Psychology:** Exploring the mental and emotional development of young people.