



# POSITIONS VACANT: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR

If you like working with children and are looking for an engaging and rewarding career, then a career in early childhood education and care (ECEC) might be for you.

The demand for early childhood professionals is growing so there are plenty of opportunities for you to work in preschools, kindergartens and child care centres across Australia.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The role of an early childhood educator is to support the implementation of an approved learning framework, and support children's wellbeing, learning and development. Depending on the setting, educators may work under direct supervision or on their own within a team.

## KEY ENTRY LEVEL TRAITS

While you may be interested in working with children there are some key traits that everyone working in the child care and early learning sector needs:

- You need to be good with and genuinely interested in many different types of people
- You must highly value education and learning for people of all ages
- You should be comfortable doing a variety of different types of work (including light physical outdoor work and indoor written work)
- You must be able to pass a Working with Children Check and police check.

## EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Employability skills are general skills that you need to get a job and stay employed. While employers will want you to have the key entry level traits, you will also need, or be willing to gain, these general skills:

- communication
- teamwork
- flexibility
- self-management

## QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

If you feel that you have the right personal traits to become an early childhood educator, then you are on your way, however you will need to commit to undertaking some formal training.

The minimum qualification required for an early childhood educator is the **Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care**.

Gaining your qualifications will mean you have the chance to develop your skills and undertake practical work placements with an early childhood employer. You may also be eligible for a traineeship.

You will also require a Working with Children Check and police check to be considered for work in this sector, and your employment services consultant can assist you in gaining these checks.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Once you have completed entry-level training, you will be ready to work in an early childhood setting, and will be responsible for:

- ensuring the health and safety of children
- providing care for children
- promoting and providing healthy food and drinks
- providing care for babies and toddlers
- developing positive and respectful relationships with children
- using an approved learning framework to guide your practice
- supporting the holistic development of children in early childhood
- providing experiences to support children's play and learning
- using information about children to inform practice
- identifying and responding to children and young people at risk
- providing emergency first aid
- working within a legal and ethical framework.

## WHERE CAN YOU WORK?

Job prospects for qualified ECEC educators are many and varied across Australia. You can be employed in private, government and community-based childcare centres, kindergartens, crèches, and after school care.

Self-employment opportunities also exist for people interested in registering as a Family Day Care Provider in their own home.

There are also opportunities for further study and professional development to allow you to progress in your career as an ECEC professional.

## WANT TO APPLY?

Talk to your employment services consultant about how YOU have what it takes to be an early childhood educator. Support is available to help you get the qualifications and work experience you need to become part of this growing sector. Your employment services consultant will also be able to connect you with employment opportunities in your local area.

