The pleasure of seeing children's personalities unfold, observing their progress through key stages of development, and being surrounded by their bubbly enthusiasm and boundless energy are the rich rewards that many child care workers experience as they fulfil their daily tasks.

As advocates for children's and family rights child care workers not only work with children but also with the family group to enhance their capacity to nurture and educate their children. Through their liaison with Community Services, child care workers fulfil a valuable function in society ensuring that appropriate standards of care for children are met.

Child care workers coordinate a group of children and a team of staff to implement activity programmes to support the development of children on a day to day basis. Children of various age groups, usually between the ages of 0-12, are their prime responsibility for whom play and learning activities are devised.

With the increasing demand for qualified child care workers in the South West, there are excellent employment prospects for those who enjoy working with children and who are willing to use both their analytical abilities to understand child development as well as their practical skills to implement fun activities that will enrich the personal development of each child.

Child care workers can progress through the ranks in the industry; from the initial step of being an assistant to a supervisor or, ultimately, a child care coordinator.
The scope of child care

Child care workers with a Certificate III qualification would typically perform the following tasks:

- Work under supervision to implement developmentally appropriate programmes
- Interact with children
- Communicate with staff and implement activities for the benefit of the children and their families as well as the child care centre.
- Take care of the physical needs of the children
- Nurture the emotional, psychological and social needs of children
- Be responsive to the daily demands of the child, bearing in mind their individual character and personality
- Supervise rest, activity and play periods
- Be vigilant with regard to the child’s health and well being and report any illness or concerns to supervisors
- Organise play activities that could range from cooking, painting, gardening, or collage.
- Recreational activities for older age groups may include excursions such as skating or bush walking
- Enhance and participate in play ensuring a safe and hygienic environment at all times

In addition to these tasks, a supervisory role would include the following tasks in addition to those listed above:

- Liaising with families and community to identify and ensure that their needs are met appropriately.
- Developing an understanding of children’s developmental needs
- Applying this understanding to develop programmes to enhance their personal growth
- Developing the capacity to interact with a large range of people from all ages
- Child carers need to be able to coordinate programs and groups of people which may include staff and the children for whom they are responsible

Personal attributes that will enhance your chances of success in this career include:

- initiative and leadership qualities
- good interpersonal and communication skills
- ability to work independently
- a non-judgmental attitude
- ability to plan and organise
- creativity and capacity to have fun
- sensitivity to the needs of others
- well developed sense of responsibility
- ability to problem-solve
- ability to relate to children

What child care qualifications offer you

The Certificate III in Children’s Service will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to assist in caring for the social, emotional, physical and educational needs of infants and young children (aged 0-12) in various care settings. You will learn how to care for, play with and foster the development of children. You also learn about the important role of the family, working within legal requirements, ensuring children’s health and safety, first aid and working with children at risk.

The Diploma of Children’s Services will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to provide care and meet the social, emotional, physical and educational needs of infants and young children (aged 0-12) in various care settings. You will learn about ethical work practices and the legal requirements of the child care industry. You will also learn skills in planning care routines, planning, delivering and evaluating activities and fostering all aspects of a child’s development. You will learn about working with families, observing and recording children’s behaviour, working with culturally diverse clients and managing safety in the workplace.

Both the Certificate III and Diploma qualification are nationally accredited qualifications and require you to undertake a supervised work placement where you will be able to apply the skills and knowledge you have learned.

Employment opportunities

Successful completion of the Certificate III in Children’s Services provides you with the opportunity to become a childcare assistant, nanny or family day carer. Successful completion of the Diploma of Children’s Services this qualification provides you with the opportunity to become a childcare worker or group leader and with suitable experience a coordinator of childcare services.

Entry requirements

Certificate III in Children’s Services

- Communication Skills

A working with children check and a medical certificate is required prior to work placement.

Diploma of Children’s Services

Successful completion of a qualification listed below:

Certificate III in Children’s Services
Certificate IV in Out of School Hours Care

Or

A relevant superseded qualification that equates to the one above

For more information of TAFEWA entrance requirements please visit www.tafe.wa.edu.au

A federal police clearance, a working with children check and Department of Education and Training criminal record check is required prior to work placement and employment in schools.

Further study options

University

Further information

Contact our Information and Career Advisory Officers on 1800 621 445 or (08) 9780 7070
Email: courseinfo@bunbury.training.wa.gov.au
Website: www.swrc.wa.edu.au