



North Highland College University of the Highlands and Islands

Early Education & Childcare – National 4 (SCQF 4)

Overview of course

Students will gain an understanding of childcare and the role of various professionals within a childcare setting. They will consider play and its role in childcare and working in an early education setting.

Entry requirements/criteria

- Working towards national 4 level
- Demonstrate an interest in working in a childcare setting
- Satisfactory reference

Additional attributes North Highland College UHI would look for

Students should have an interest in studying in the childcare field. Knowledge from any previous vocational, voluntary or paid opportunities would also be beneficial. Students with an interest in studying to a higher level within this sector will benefit from building on previous knowledge and experiences to develop their understanding of theory in relation to current childhood practice. Students will be expected to -

- Be prepared to work hard all session
- Catch up on work missed if they are absent
- Ask for help if they need it
- Complete weekly homework tasks
- Submit homework on time
- Complete homework to a high standard
- Revise throughout the session
- Access and use the virtual learning environment

Therefore, the following attributes and skills are important for applicants –

- Motivation for learning
- Commitment to take personal responsibility for learning
- Confidence to ask questions
- Dedication to completing work out with class
- Basic IT skills
- Independent study skills

What can students do after this course

They will be able to progress onto a NC Child & Health & Social Care course, SCQF level 5.

Additional information on this course for Guidance Teachers

National 4 Early Education & Childcare is a good choice for any student interested in working in the childcare sector or planning to study towards a career in the sector. Building the blocks of knowledge and underpinning theory will give students a greater insight into the development of children holistically across the early year lifespan and in to adolescence. Students will also be able to make connections to current theory and be able to apply these to future study in this field.

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) now require staff to hold registrable qualifications. This award will open a progression route to future courses that are SSSC registrable so is a good starting point for students within this field. The depth of understanding and application required to pass the course will place students at a significant advantage when pursuing further study within this field.

Although classes are once a week, students will need to commit to regular private study in between classes to consolidate their learning. Since learners will be expected to take greater responsibility for their own learning and the development of their study skills, this course offers excellent preparation for any student considering progression to College or University in a related topic field.

This course will be particularly suited to students who have an interest in childcare and related factors regardless of previous experience or not. Understanding how children think and learn will build the skills and knowledge of students whether it be from a blank slate or to facilitate previous experiences, knowledge and understanding.