

childhood

practice 2014/15



always the

right course

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Childhood Practice

Welcome to Childhood Practice at Edinburgh College

At Edinburgh College, we offer a range of excellent courses in childhood practice, whether you're looking to develop a career in a council or private nursery, become a nanny, child minder, au pair or learning assistant, or work in a playgroup or crèche role. Our range of courses will also prepare you for university courses, such as a BA in Childhood Practice. We understand the need to offer a range of flexible study options to suit you, with both full-time and part-time courses to choose from.

We offer programmes in specific areas of study, such as child development theory and practice, playwork theory and practice, child protection, wellbeing and safety. To ensure our courses meet industry requirements, we work closely with the Scottish Social Services

Council (SSSC). This means that programmes such as HNC Early Education and Childcare, PDA in Childhood Practice, and SVQ Level 3 Playwork all meet SSSC requirements. This is important, as it will allow you to register at the necessary level, from practitioner to manager, allowing you to work in the sector. We've also established contracts with East Lothian, Midlothian and Fife Councils.

We promote active learning, so you can expect to learn both in and out of the classroom. Most of our courses include a placement in childhood practice settings, such as schools, nurseries, or after school clubs. This is essential practical experience. It's designed to give you a good understanding of both the challenges and rewards of working with children and young people. This

experience will enhance your future job applications. You'll be supported by experienced teaching staff who have worked in a whole variety of childcare settings. This means they have up-to-date knowledge of the sector, ensuring your learning is relevant to the needs of modern childhood practice.

The following course guide will help you choose from the range of innovative courses offered in childhood practice at Edinburgh College.



Preparation for Working in Childcare and Social Care

Campus: Granton

Mode of Attendance: Full-Time

What is this course about?

This is an entry level course for those wishing to embark on a career in childcare or in social care. There will be a variety of learning opportunities which reflect the knowledge and skill you will require in these fields.

If you are not sure about whether you would like to work with children and young people or with vulnerable adults this course will suit your needs.

How do I get a place?

- There are no formal entry requirements for this course however some experience of working in a paid or voluntary capacity with people will be an advantage.

What will I learn?

- You will learn the values and principles of working within the care sector.
- You will also learn about how to care for children and about working with vulnerable adults.
- You can expect to be taking part in a variety of activities in college and out in the community.

What can I do next?

- NPA Playwork and Childcare if you want to work with children
- Intermediate 2 Health and Social Care if you want to work with adults

NPA Playwork and Childcare

Campus: Granton, Midlothian, Sighthill

Mode of Attendance: Full-Time

What is this course about?

This course will give you an excellent foundation in playwork, childcare and education, enabling you to seek employment and register at support worker level with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). Visit the SSSC for more information about registration.

How do I get a place?

- Minimum 2 passes at Standard Grade general level or National 4 (or equivalent) one of which should be English
- You should be 16 years old at the start of the course

What will I learn?

- Play
- Children's health and development
- Children's rights
- Child protection
- Supporting children's behaviour
- This is a practical course which will involve you taking part in activities in and out of college.
- You will attend a work placement as part of this course which will give you valuable practical experience of working in a childcare setting.

What can I do next?

- Progress onto other early education and childcare courses such as NC/ HNC Early Education and Childcare
- Seek employment and register with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) as a support worker in a nursery or after school club setting as a nursery or play assistant

NC Early Education and Childcare

Campus: Granton, Midlothian, Sighthill

Mode of Attendance: Full-Time

What is this course about?

This course will give you a foundation in childcare and education.

Successful completion of the course will enable you to seek employment and register with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) at support worker level. Visit the SSSC's website for more information about registration requirements.

How do I get a place?

- Minimum 3 Credit level Standard Grades or National 5 (or equivalent) one of which should be English
- Some experience of working with children in a paid or voluntary capacity will be an advantage. You should detail this experience in the personal statement of your application.
- You should be 17 years old at the start of the course

What will I learn?

- Play
- Children's health and development
- Children's rights
- Child protection
- Supporting children's behaviour
- Work placement forms part of this course, which will give you valuable practical experience of working in a childcare setting.

What can I do next?

HNC Early Education and Childcare

PDA Education Support Assistance

Campus: Midlothian, Sighthill

Mode of Attendance: Part-Time, Short Full-Time

What is this course about?

The PDA Education Support Assistance course is ideal if you're looking to gain employment as a learning support assistant in a school setting. You'll develop the skills needed on the job, supporting primary and secondary school pupils, in the creation of a positive learning environment.

We currently offer this as a full time (18 weeks) or a part time (36 weeks) option. Both courses include placement opportunities in school settings, to give you valuable practical experience.

How do I get a place?

A good level of English and Mathematics (equivalent to Credit Level Standard Grade or above)

What will I learn?

- Working effectively with the class teacher
- Supporting primary and secondary school pupils
- Administrative tasks
- Classroom organisation and the creation of a positive learning environment
- Supporting children with additional needs

What can I do next?

HNC Early Education & Childcare or relevant employment

HNC Early Education and Childcare

Campus: Granton, Midlothian, Sighthill

Mode of Attendance: Evening, Full-Time.

There is also a day release option at Sighthill. Part time is at Midlothian only

What is this course about?

This course will provide you with the theoretical knowledge and practical experience required for a career in early education, childcare or playwork.

Successful completion of the course will enable you to seek employment and register with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) at practitioner level.

Visit the Scottish Social Services Council for more information about registration requirements.

How do I get a place?

- Entry requirements are a minimum of two Highers, one of which should be English, or pass relevant NC at SCQF Level 6, or SVQ Level 2 Children's Care Learning and Development
- You should also be able to demonstrate some experience of working with children or young people in a paid or voluntary role. You should detail this experience in the personal statement of your application.
- You should be 18 years old at the start of this course

If people apply for the part time or day release they need to already be working in a childcare setting (paid or voluntary)

What will I learn?

- The course includes practical work experience in a minimum of two different child care settings.
- You will learn how to observe and assess children's learning and development and apply theoretical knowledge to your practice.
- You will learn how to promote health and well being with children and gain a good understanding of children's rights and participation.
- We promote active learning and you can expect to be taking part in activities in and out of the classroom.

What can I do next?

- Employment as a qualified childcare practitioner
- Further study options include degree-level courses such as BA Childhood Practice, Level 8 PDA/HND Childhood Practice and Level 9 PDA Childhood Practice

SVQ Level 3 Playwork

Campus: Granton

Mode of Attendance: Part-Time

What is this course about?

This course is designed for those who are currently employed in a childcare setting. It will provide the theoretical knowledge and practical skills you require to work in a playwork setting.

This is a vocational qualification and you will be assessed by a portfolio of evidence measured against national standards of competency. As much of the evidence for the portfolio is generated in the workplace, you will be assigned an individual assessor who will observe your work practice and support you throughout this qualification.

The course will take place over 2 academic years and will include a range of different learning opportunities: classes, tutorial sessions, online learning and research.

On completion you'll be eligible to register with the Scottish Social Services Council at practitioner level. Visit the SSSC website for more information about registration.

How do I get a place?

- You should have around six months experience of working with children in the 5-15 age range and be currently employed in a playwork setting
- This course is usually delivered in conjunction with your local Childcare Partnership. Please contact them for information on funding opportunities
- The course can also be funded by employers or students - please contact us for information

What will I learn?

- You will learn current playwork theory and practice and how to encourage and support self directed play.
- You will also learn about safeguarding children, children's rights and health and well being.

What can I do next?

- Progress to study SVQ 4 Playwork BA in Childhood Practice (depending on credits achieved)
- Registration with the SSSC at practitioners level

SVQ Level 4 Playwork

Campus: Granton

Mode of Attendance: Part-Time

What is this course about?

The course is suitable if you are working in a playwork setting in a supervisory role, and are looking to gain the qualifications you need to register with the SSSC at lead practitioner or manager level.

This course can be used as a progression route towards the PDA Childhood Practice at SCQF Level 9, one of the required qualifications for lead practitioners and managers. Visit the SSSC's website for more information about registration.

This is a vocational qualification and you will be assessed by a portfolio of evidence measured against national standards of competency. As much of the evidence for the portfolio is generated in the workplace, you will be assigned an individual assessor who will observe your work practice and support you throughout this qualification.

The course will take place over 2 academic years and will include a range of different learning opportunities - classes, tutorial sessions, online learning and research.

How do I get a place?

This course is usually delivered in conjunction with your local Childcare Partnership.

Please contact them for information on funding opportunities. The course can also be funded by employers or students - please contact us for information.

What will I learn?

- You will learn aspects of leadership and management in a playwork setting.
- You will learn how to develop operational plans, to review and develop policies and procedures and reflect on and develop your own practice.

What can I do next?

If you have a total of 240 credits at SCQF Level 7 & 8 you can apply for the PDA at Level 9 in Childhood Practice

PDA Childhood Practice (SCQF 8)

Campus: Midlothian

Mode of Attendance: Part-Time Evening

What is this course about?

This course is a progression route from the HNC Early Education and Childcare or SVQ level 3 playwork or Children's Care Learning and Development. To apply for the course you should be working in a childcare setting. This is not currently a required qualification for registration, but will on successful completion, give you 64 credits towards higher level qualifications. The course is run part time in the evenings over two academic years.

How do I get a place?

- You will have a practitioner's qualification such as HNC Early Education and Childcare or SVQ playwork or Children's Care Learning and Development.
- You will be employed in a childcare setting

What will I learn?

- This course introduce you to leadership and quality improvement within a childcare setting. There are opportunities to reflect on your own professional development and practice. Units could focus on managing a quality curriculum in early years or on playwork opportunities in a play setting.

What can I do next?

- In order to progress to the next level of qualification, lead practitioners PDA Childhood Practice you would need to gain further credits at SCQF level 8 and be in a managers or lead practitioner's role
- You could apply to university for a BA Childhood Practice

PDA Childhood Practice (SCQF 9)

Campus: Granton

Mode of Attendance: Part-Time

What is this course about?

This new Professional Development Award (PDA) at SCQF 9 has been developed by SQA, in partnership with the Scottish Social Services Council, as a recognised qualification if you're a lead practitioner or manager of childcare and playwork settings. The qualification is the equivalent to an ordinary degree.

You may be able to access funding for course fees from your local authority childcare partnership or receive a proportion from the SAAS Part-time fee grant.

The course will take place over 2 academic years and will include a range of different learning opportunities – tutorial sessions, online learning, research, discussion groups – all with full support from our experienced staff team.

How do I get a place?

- You'll already be working in a lead practitioner or manager role in a childhood practice setting
- The PDA at Level 9 consists of 120 SCQF credits which form part of a 360 credit award. You must therefore have 240 credits at SCQF Levels 7 and 8 before starting the course. Edinburgh College can offer a range of courses and top-up bundles to enable you to build up your credits
- If you have a degree-level qualification, you may gain direct entry to Level 9

What will I learn?

- You will study topics which are grounded in work-based learning and aim to balance professional knowledge and understanding with practical skills and abilities.
- You will work on two practice units – one within your current workplace and one on placement in another area of childhood practice, giving you even more valuable practical experience.
- You will also have the opportunity to explore a particular area of interest in the Independent Study unit, allowing you to shape your own learning according to your interests and future plans.

What can I do next?

- Register with the SSSC at lead practitioner / manager level
- Progress onto postgraduate study



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Our course portfolio may be subject to alteration.
For information or to speak to an advisor call 0131 660 1010