

Exit Level Outcome 2: Play-Based Learning and Facilitation

Learners will demonstrate the ability to:

- Explain the importance and benefits of both indoor and outdoor play
- Identify and analyse different types of play that support learning and development across curriculum areas
- Implement inclusive daily learning programmes that reflect diversity, culture, and inclusivity
- Facilitate both adult-directed and child-initiated learning activities
- Support children's learning through interaction, communication, guidance, and care
- Promote language development and thinking skills through integrated play-based activities
- Identify and describe barriers to effective play-based learning within ECD environments

Exit Level Outcome 3: Observation, Assessment and Documentation

Learners will demonstrate the ability to:

- Explain the importance of observing, assessing, and documenting children's learning and development
- Apply appropriate assessment techniques and methods suited to early childhood development
- Gather information on children's development using various observation methods
- Record children's learning and development accurately using approved tools and templates
- Identify factors that may hinder children's progress, including developmental or health-related concerns
- Detect warning signs of developmental delays, emotional challenges, or special needs and record findings appropriately

Exit Level Outcome 4: Monitoring Progress, Reporting and Family Support

Learners will demonstrate the ability to:

- Evaluate observation and assessment records to identify developmental milestones and individual differences
- Review learning goals and targets to track children's progress over time
- Compile progress reports that integrate assessment findings and recommendations
- Use assessment results to plan learning opportunities and interventions
- Work collaboratively with families to support children with behavioural or developmental challenges
- Analyse and interpret child progress information to improve practice and learning outcomes

Exit Level Outcome 5: Health, Safety, Nutrition and Child Protection

Learners will demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify different types of accidents and emergency situations in ECD settings
- Develop and apply action plans in line with health and safety legislation and centre policies
- Plan nutritious weekly menus that meet children's dietary and special nutritional needs
- Promote healthy lifestyles for babies and young children
- Identify signs of abuse, neglect, maltreatment, or distress and follow legal reporting procedures
- Identify environmental risks, infections, and safety hazards affecting children, including those with special needs
- Apply infection prevention and control measures in accordance with legislation
- Record and report accidents and emergencies according to centre policy requirements

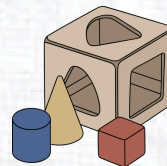
INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT

Formative Assessment

The skills development providers will use the curriculum to guide them on the stipulated internal assessment criteria and weighting. They will also apply the scope of practical skills and applied knowledge as stipulated by the internal assessment criteria. This formative assessment leads to entrance into the integrated external summative assessment.

Summative Assessment

An external integrated summative assessment, conducted through the relevant QCTO Assessment Quality Partner, is required for the issuing of this qualification. The external integrated summative assessment will focus on the Exit Level Outcomes and Associated Assessment Criteria.



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EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONER

NQF LEVEL 4
(CREDITS 131)

OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMMES



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

QUALIFICATION

Occupational Certificate: Early Childhood Development Practitioner (ECDP)
Registered with the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO)

COURSE STRUCTURE

- 30% Theory
- 70% Practical and Workplace Experience (WIL)

MODULES COVERED

- Child Growth and Development
- Early Learning Programmes
- Health, Safety and Nutrition
- Child Protection and Well-being
- Classroom and Programme Management
- Professional Communication
- Inclusive Education Practices

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates may work as:

- Early Childhood Development Practitioner
- ECD Assistant
- Day Care Practitioner
- Crèche Teacher
- Community Childcare Worker
- NGO and NPO ECD Facilitator

COURSE OFFERED:

Programme	Roodepoort
Occupational Certificate: Chef	✓

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Occupational Certificate: Early Childhood Development Practitioner prepares learners to provide quality care, education, and developmental support to children from birth to four years. The programme equips learners with practical, theoretical, and workplace-based skills to support early learning, health, safety, and holistic child development in registered ECD centres and related environments.

WHY STUDY EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT?

This QCTO-accredited qualification focuses on:

- Practical, hands-on skills
- Child-centred learning and development
- Workplace readiness
- Community impact and social development

ECD practitioners play a vital role in shaping the foundation of a child's future.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 11 / Level 3

REGISTRATION

- Students enrol twice a year (January and June)

DURATION

- 1 Year

WHAT YOU WILL MASTER

- Child growth and developmental milestones from birth to four years
- Planning and implementing age-appropriate learning programmes
- Creating safe, healthy, and stimulating learning environments
- Supporting children's emotional, social, physical, and cognitive development
- Health, hygiene, nutrition, and safety practices in ECD settings
- Observation, assessment, and reporting on child development
- Inclusive education and supporting children with diverse needs
- Positive guidance, discipline, and behaviour management
- Professional communication with parents, caregivers, and stakeholders
- Ethical and professional conduct within Early Childhood Development environments

PRACTICAL AND WORKPLACE TRAINING

The programme emphasises real-world application:

- Daily care routines
- Learning through play
- Observation and assessment of children
- Health, hygiene, and safety practices
- Engagement with parents and communities

KNOWLEDGE MODULES:

- Child growth and development
- Early learning theories and practices
- Health, safety, hygiene, and nutrition in ECD settings
- Child protection and children's rights

- Inclusive education and diversity awareness
- Professional ethics and ECD legislation
- Communication and record-keeping

PRACTICAL SKILL MODULES

- Planning and implementing daily learning programmes
- Facilitating learning through play
- Managing routines, meals, rest, and hygiene
- Creating safe and stimulating learning environments
- Observing, assessing, and recording child development
- Supporting children with additional needs
- Positive guidance and behaviour support

WORK EXPERIENCE MODULES

- Placement in registered ECD centres or approved sites
- Assisting with daily classroom and care routines
- Implementing learning activities under supervision
- Applying health, safety, and child protection practices
- Engaging with parents and caregivers
- Demonstrating professional conduct in real workplace settings

ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Exit Level Outcome 1: Inclusive Learning Environment and Planning

Learners will demonstrate the ability to:

- Set up inclusive physical learning environments that promote play, exploration, and learning for all children in centre-based and non-centre-based settings
- Explain principles of inclusion, diversity, equality, cultural awareness, and language sensitivity in line with legislation and centre policies
- Design and develop daily plans for a selected broad phase using developmentally appropriate activities, resources, and equipment
- Plan, prepare, and adapt activities to meet diverse learning and developmental needs, including special needs
- Identify and explain key factors that influence children's learning and development in different ECD settings