

Qualification Purpose Statement

Qualification title

NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma in Food Production and Cooking in Early Years
[601/3809/9]

What does this qualification cover?

This qualification will provide you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to work as a cook in an early years setting.

The qualification is formed of 16 mandatory and 16 optional units. The optional units allow you to choose from a variety of areas to tailor the qualification to your interests.

From the mandatory units, you will gain knowledge and understanding in the following areas; these include (but are not limited to):

- working effectively as part of an early years team
- supporting healthy lifestyles for children through the provision of food and nutrition
- preparing meals to meet current nutritional standards in an early years setting
- making a positive impression within an early years kitchen environment
- the preparation, production and finishing of different types of hot and cold food (including meat, fish and vegetable dishes) for children
- workplace hygiene and safety
- food preparation for allergy sufferers.

From the optional units, you will gain knowledge and understanding in the areas of your choice; these include (but are not limited to):

- preparing meals for distribution in an early years setting
- efficient use of food and kitchen resources
- cleaning of specialist food preparation and cooking equipment
- cook-chilling and cook-freezing food.

Completion of this qualification is achieved through a combination of classroom-based learning and experience in the workplace.

All the units within this qualification are vocationally based, directly helping you gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required to work as a cook in an early years setting.

There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification but you will need to be at least 16 years of age.

This qualification will take approximately 12 months to complete.

What knowledge and skills will this qualification give you?

Completion of this qualification will equip you with the essential knowledge and skills required to work as a cook in a variety of early years settings, for example:

- supporting healthy lifestyles for children through the provision of food and nutrition
- preparing and cooking food to meet the requirements of allergy sufferers
- preparing meals for distribution in an early years setting.

Is this qualification right for you?

This qualification is suitable if you are working, or wish to work, as a cook in early years settings.

If you are already working as a cook in an early years setting, this qualification could consolidate and extend your knowledge, understanding and skills. It will also confer your competence in your role as a cook.

If you are working as a volunteer or on practical placement, this qualification will provide you with the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills to support you in gaining employment as a cook in an early years setting.

You will need to be working, volunteering or on practical placement as you will need to show competence in both knowledge and skills.

Why should you take this particular qualification?

You should take this qualification if you want to develop the knowledge and skills required to work as a cook in an early years setting.

Whilst there are other qualifications available at the same level, these are generic. This qualification focuses on the role of a cook in an early years setting and ensures understanding of statutory and nutritional requirements when providing food and drink for children aged 0-5 years.

This qualification is not available as part of an Apprenticeship Framework.

What could this qualification lead to?

If you are already working as a cook in an early years setting, this qualification may enable you to progress to specialist roles in a related area. If you are not currently employed, this may support you to gain employment as a cook in an early years setting.

If you are looking to continue studying after completion of this qualification, the NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma in Food Production and Cooking in Early Years provides you with the knowledge and skills to progress to a variety of Level 3 Cooking and Hospitality qualifications.

Who supports this qualification?

The NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma in Food Production and Cooking in Early Years was developed with and is supported by the London Early Years Foundation (LEYF), and is supported by the Early Years Alliance, the largest early years membership organisation in England.