



IMAGINE EDUCATION IS A CAREER IN CHILDCARE RIGHT FOR YOU?

Is a career in childcare right for you?

- Childcare workers are responsible for caring for six-week old to five-year-old children in various environments and providing educational, social, physical and intellectual support to aid appropriate development.
- Your daily tasks can include preparing materials, activities, games and meals. You will often be directly involved with children (e.g. playing games with them) and you sometimes might be required to take on a more supervisory role while they interact with other children.
- You will also need to be willing to accept legal responsibility for the health and safety of children in your care; you should be familiar with Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics.
- Most childcare work involves working as part of a small team, so the ability to work effectively with other carers is essential.



Ask yourself:

1. Do you love everything about children?

Working with children can be fun and highly rewarding, but there are times when children can become draining, frustrating and difficult to deal with. You will come across tantrums, dirty nappies, hyperactivity, crying, screaming and even shoving, making your job both mentally and physically challenging. As a childcare worker you need to love everything about children – the good, the bad and the ugly.

2. Can you communicate with both the young and old?

Throughout your career you will be required to communicate with both the children you look after and their parents. Your day will involve not only playing Duck, Duck, Goose, reading stories and singing songs, but also talking to the child's parents about their development, their achievements or struggles and their education. You will need to be professional and have the communication skills regardless of the childcare setting you choose to work in.

3. Can you be patient and flexible?

Working with children of all types requires a great deal of patience. You may be in the position where you will be caring for an intellectually or physically disabled child, an extremely introverted and shy personality or an over energetic, testing one. In order to successfully care for and manage a variety of personality types, you need to be easy-going, tolerant and flexible.

4. Are you willing to pursue further education and training?

To be successful in your career as a childcare worker you need to have the willingness to pursue further education and training when required. Your employer may require you to participate in in-house training tailored to the particular organisation or you may need to refresh your first aid qualifications at some point along the way. Further studies throughout your career can not only be required as part of your employment, but can be a helpful way to enhance your career.

5. Are you the dependable type?

When working with children you have to be particularly dependable and responsible. You will be caring for the lives of little people who not only need you for guidance, for entertainment and for love, but also for their wellbeing and safety. Parents and employers will be putting their trust in you to look after the welfare of the children.

6. Can you be a positive role model?

As a childcare worker, you will be an integral part of each child's life that you look after. Whether you are a nanny working one-on-one, a carer of a disabled child or part of a team in a kindergarten, you will be a person those children look up to.

7. Is your salary level a driving factor in your career choice?

Childcare workers generally earn a middle of the range salary, so if getting rich is a driving factor in choosing a career, then perhaps childcare isn't the one for you. There are however plenty of rewards and highlights that don't come in the form of cash that may be enough to outweigh any financial concerns.

8. Are you ready to get qualified?

If you think you have the personality traits to take on the responsibility and the challenges of caring for children, then are you ready to get qualified? Take a look at childcare courses including diplomas and certificates in Early Childhood Education and Care.

Being a childcare professional can be a rewarding and enriching experience, but it's not for everyone. By taking the time to ask yourself these questions before you commence your studies and career in childcare, you can greatly increase your chances of having a successful experience.