Introduction
The Higher Certificate provides access to a higher education for many experienced and skilled Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners and trainers who do not have a recognised qualification. The purpose of this qualification is to:
1. Develop ECD ETD practitioners (e.g. home-based, centre- and school-based practitioners including Grade R, family and community ECD motivators, fieldworkers, facilitators, trainers and managers) to provide appropriate education, training and development services in the ECD sub-field.
2. Enable ECD ETD practitioners to use their knowledge of child growth and development from birth to 6 years and relevant national policies to guide their professional practice in the ECD sub-field.

This qualification provides an opportunity for practitioners with a Level 4 Certificate in ECD or an equivalent to further their professional development and to specialise in aspects of ECD practice e.g. Grade R. (Refer www.saqa.org.za)

Career Options
What will I be qualified as once I’ve completed this course?
• Early Childhood Development (ECD) Practitioner
• Reception Year Practitioner
• Trainer at private companies (ECD)

What will I be able to do?
• Manage an Early Childhood Development site
• Mentor Level 1 and 4 in-service students in training
• Training Level 1 students for a non-governmental training provider
• Teach a Grade R class
• Manage and be an educator to a play group
• Take care of children as an Au Pair
• Educate children at an Early Childhood Development Centre

In which industries will I be able to work?
• Early Childhood Development/Day Care Centres
• Private sector
• ECD community
• Play groups
• Schools that offer Grade R education

What could I do to further improve my skills and my chances of furthering my career?
You can continue your studies in Education at an FET College, or study towards a specific teaching qualification at an institution of Higher Education, such as a University if you meet their entry requirements.

Programme Structure
What will I be studying during this course?

Fundamental Unit Standards
• Present information in a public setting

Core Subjects Unit Standards
• Mediate active learning in ECD programmes.
• Promote healthy development in ECD programmes.
• Develop and manage the ECD learning programme.

Elective Subjects
• Facilitating a life skills learning programme in the reception year.
• Facilitating a literacy learning programme in the reception year.
• Facilitating a numeracy learning programme in the reception year.
Admission Requirements

What do I need to have completed before I can apply to study this course?

- Grade 12, or equivalent qualification, or
- Level 4 FET National Certificate: ECD
- Level 4 National Certificate in ECD
- Level 4 National Certificate (Vocational)

Note: Admission for the Level 5 Higher Certificate is subject to the successful completion of a PACE Assessment in numeracy and literacy. Candidates who do not meet the required standards in the PACE Assessment will be required to complete Level 4 before admission to the Level 5 Higher Certificate will be possible.

Duration

- 18 months full-time (intake in January).
- 2 years part-time (3 days working at an ECD site and 2 Saturdays per month. Intake in February).
  (Part-time - Available)