



# CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Home-based Childcare (DHC)

*Demonstrating quality in home-based childcare*



A unique joint initiative by  
CACHE and NCMA



## What is the Level 3 DHC?

It is a joint initiative qualification between CACHE and the National Childminding Association. Coming from these two leading associations in the early years field, it is seen as the quality award for all home-based childcarers, who are working with children aged 0-16 years.

## Why should I choose the Level 3 DHC?

It will help you to raise your professional skills and the quality of your childcare, as well as signalling your commitment to continuing professional development.

Taking the diploma allows you to tap into a network of support and guidance and to meet like-minded people. You will also learn about the legislation and regulations governing home-based childcare and consider a range of childcare issues.

The award's structure is flexible with each unit having a separate certificate. This means that you can complete Unit 1 then take the remaining units in any order that suits you, building up to the full qualification.

Unit 1 is an ideal stand-alone training course for practitioners who are:

- new to home-based childcare
- undertaking childminder registration; or
- wishing to gain approved home-based childcarer status

## What's involved?

The level 3 DHC is made up of five units and each is individually assessed. You must complete all five units to achieve the full diploma. You can study the units in the order that you want to.

### Unit 1 - Introduction to Childcare Practice (home-based)

This stand-alone unit serves as the basic training for home-based childcare. You will learn about assessing the home for risks and about making it a safe and healthy environment for children. You will also learn how to plan the way you will work with children and how to make a good start in your relationship with the children's parents/primary carer. The unit also covers child protection issues and the regulations governing home-based childcare.

### Unit 2 - Childcare and child development (0-16) in the home-based setting

Unit 2 focuses on promoting children's rights and working with disabled children and their families. It also explores children's development and their well-being.

### Unit 3 - The childcare practitioner in the home-based setting

This unit considers the professional role of the home-based childcare worker. You will learn about assertiveness and valuing yourself. Other topics covered are: marketing your childcare service, policy writing, inter-agency working with other professionals, child protection and continuing professional development.

### Unit 4 - Working in partnership with parents in the home-based setting

This unit explores the role of the childcare practitioner and the community. It also teaches you about diversity and promoting positive relationships with parents or the primary carer, as well as communicating with them. Confidentiality, data protection and the law are also covered.

### Unit 5 - Planning to meet children's individual learning needs in the home-based setting

In this unit you will learn about observation and assessment of children's development and how to meet individuals' needs, specifically in the home-based setting. The unit also shows you how to prepare, implement and evaluate plans for groups of children of different ages and abilities.

### Do I need to have any other qualifications before I start the award?

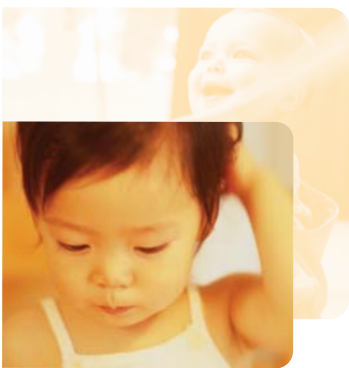
No, but you must be at least 16 years old.

### How long will it take to achieve the Level 3 DHC?

Unit 1 involves 12 hours of teaching and units 2-5 involve 30 hours each. You can work through the units at your own pace depending upon availability of courses in your area.

### How will I be assessed?

The assessment for Unit 1 is a multiple-choice paper. For the other units, you will be assessed through written assignments that directly relate to your day-to-day work.



## What is my natural step after I achieve the Level 3 DHC?

The DHC has been designed to provide a progression into the CACHE Level 3 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development. However you may choose to move on to a degree level qualification such as a foundation degree in Early Years or a variety of other continuing professional development pathways.



## Where can I find a course near me?

By logging onto the CACHE website at:

**[www.cache.org.uk](http://www.cache.org.uk)** or by calling our Customer Support team on: 0845 347 2123. You can also call the National Childminding Association for a list of their centres on: 0800 169 4486. We would love to hear from you!



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