

**Children learn something  
new every day**



**What about you?**

**Diploma in  
Home-based Childcare**

## What is the CACHE level 3 Diploma in Home-based Childcare?

The Diploma in Home-based Childcare (DHC) is a level 3 qualification specially designed for childminders and nannies.

Completing the DHC helps home-based childcarers develop the knowledge and understanding they need to provide high-quality care and early years education in a home environment.

In 2006, the DHC replaced the CACHE level 3 Certificate in Childminding Practice (CCP). In five years, over 75,000 candidates registered to take at least one unit of CCP.

We are confident that the DHC – and updated training materials available from the National Extension College (NEC) – will inspire even more home-based childcarers to study for a level 3 qualification. The DHC has also been designed to provide progression into the NVQ level 3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development.

### How does the DHC work?

The DHC has been designed to be as flexible as possible. The full award is made up of five units:

- Unit 1 – Introduction to Childcare Practice (ICP) (Home-based)
- Unit 2 – Childcare and Child Development (0-16) in the Home-based Setting
- Unit 3 – The Childcare Practitioner in the Home-based Setting
- Unit 4 – Working in Partnership with Parents in the Home-based Setting
- Unit 5 – Planning to Meet the Children's Individual Learning Needs in the Home-based Setting.

Units can be completed in the childminder or nanny's own time, either as a distance learning course, or by attending classes and tutorials.



Unit 1 (ICP) is a 12-hour course, which is usually assessed by a multiple-choice exam. It is ideal for anyone new to home-based childcare, or for those moving into home-based childcare. In England, it is the preferred course for childminders working towards registration while, in Wales, ICP is mandatory.

For most people, Unit 1 (ICP) is the first unit of DHC they complete but the other units can be taken in any order. Units 2 to 5 are each made up of 30 hours guided learning, and assessment is through a written assignment that directly relates to the candidates' day-to-day work.

Candidates can choose to take the five units of the DHC in any order but must successfully complete all five units to attain the full level 3 Diploma. However, certificates are available for each unit achieved.

Successful candidates are ideally placed to continue their training as the full DHC award provides the underpinning knowledge for NVQ assessment.

### Who developed the award?

The National Childminding Association (NCMA) and the Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education (CACHE) joined forces to develop the DHC. The two organisations previously collaborated on the DHC's predecessor, CCP.

### Where can I find training for the DHC?

NCMA, and many other learning providers such as adult education colleges, hold DHC courses across England and Wales. Sessions are usually held when it is less likely candidates will be caring for children, such as at evenings and weekends.

If it is difficult to attend a regular class, the NEC offers DHC as a distance learning course with materials developed with NCMA. This provides:

- home-study resources;
- support via a personal tutor over the telephone, internet or post;
- and online childcare interest groups where students can get information and chat with other students.



**“The Diploma has taught me so much... Everything I’ve learnt, I’ve put into practice.”**

**Julie Parlett Eachus is a registered childminder. She has finished units 1, 3 and 4 of the Diploma in Home-based Childcare.**

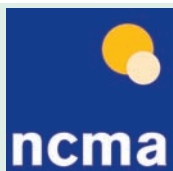
“I’m now over halfway through the Diploma and it has taught me so much. I’m more reflective about my work and more confident that I can give parents the service they want. All of the coursework has been really relevant to my day-to-day work; everything I’ve learnt, I’ve put into practice.”

**Registered childminder Stephanie McKenzie is working towards ICP.**



“I don’t have a background in childcare as my previous job was in social services. Although I did lots of training there it has been different going back to study. Doing the course by distance learning has made it so much easier. All the materials are easy to use and self-explanatory. I’d definitely like to do more studying after this.”

## For more information



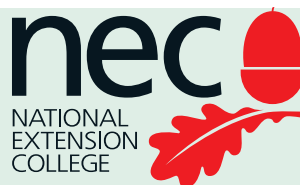
Home-based childcare

[www.ncma.org.uk](http://www.ncma.org.uk)  
0800 169 4486



Childcare qualifications

[www.cache.org.uk](http://www.cache.org.uk)  
0845 347 2123



Distance learning

[www.nec-courses.co.uk](http://www.nec-courses.co.uk)  
0800 389 2839

Or for details of a course being run near you: