

Certificate in Catholic Early Childhood Education

This certificate is aimed at educators, management and whānau involved in a Catholic Early Childhood Centre. A person who has gained a Certificate in Catholic Early Childhood Education would have completed courses in a recognized programme of study in the following subjects:

Catholic Character, Catholic Vision, Catholic Community, Sacramentality, Faith Formation, Spirituality, Sacred Scripture and the Liturgical Year.

EC101: Exploring our Catholic Character

This module explores the concept of Catholic Character and what it means for the early childhood education sector. It provides for participants to develop their understanding of what it means to be within a Catholic environment and how they integrate the requirements set out in the Policy for Catholic Early Childhood Centres – Diocese of Auckland (2006) in their every day practice. Participants will reflect on Catholic tradition and link to the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement (2010).

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- *Understand the Catholic vision of education (Gilkey and Groome)*
- *Develop a Catholic environment and apply the requirements set out in the Policy for Catholic Early Childhood Centres (2006) in every day practice*
- *Support and contribute to the Catholic Character*
- *Make the Catholic Character visible within the Centre*
- *Identify links with the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement (2010)*

EC102: Exploring our Catholic Vision

This module explores values and virtues embedded within the Catholic Curriculum Statement. The Catholic Early Childhood Centre is 'a privileged means of promoting the formation of the whole person.' It aims for 'the acquisition of values and the discovery of truth, the bringing forth of the power of Christian virtue by the integration of culture with faith and of faith with living.' (*The Catholic School, Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977*) Participants will reflect on the values within their own centres and link to the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- *Develop Gospel values and virtues as central to early childhood education. (The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1992)*
- *Implement a Catholic vision through traditions and culture within the centre policies and practice*
- *Understand our common story and share it with the community.*
- *Know and give witness to Gospel values and a Christian way of relating to God, self, others and creation*
- *Know common Catholic prayers*
- *Identify links with the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement (2010)*

EC103: Exploring Catholic Community

This module explores the important role Catholic Early Childhood services play in fostering the holistic development of children through being participants in the Catholic Community of Faith. A Catholic Early Childhood service is intended to be a community in which the faith and practices of the Catholic church are experienced, developed, nurtured and passed on. 'The primary purpose of a Catholic Early Childhood service should be to provide an all-emcompassing Catholic family atmosphere that supports the awakening and nurturing of faith in the child, bringing them to an awareness of God, Gospel values and their place in the world.' (*Policy for Catholic Early Childhood Centres – Diocese of Auckland 2006*) Participants will reflect on their communities and link to the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- *Recognise that the centre is part of a community in which the faith and practices of the Catholic Church are experienced, developed, nurtured and passed on*
- *Support the families/whānau by reflecting in practice the values of the Catholic community*
- *Understand that we are one body in Christ through His Church*
- *Understand their role in the community of faith*
- *Understand that the centre works in partnership with whānau and the Catholic community to nurture the faith development of children*
- *Identify links with the Catholic Early Childhood Curriculum Statement (2010)*

EC104: Exploring Sacramentality

This module explores the concept of the sacramentality of life; seeing God's presence in all of creation. The environment of a Catholic Early Childhood Service is 'inspired by a supernatural vision: we are called to life in God.' (*Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement 2010*) Sacramental Life is also developed within the Church through the gifts that we receive from God through the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders and the Anointing of the Sick. These sacraments are part of the structure of the Church community and provide grace that assists us throughout our lives to have a closer relationship with God and one another. Participants will reflect on their own sacramentality and how this is reflected within their centres. They will also make links with the Catholic Early Childhood Curriculum Statement.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- *Be aware of the Sacramentality of life: seeing God's presence in all of creation*
- *Understand that all human beings reflect the face of God*
- *Understand that God is experienced in the ordinary*
- *Know that we demonstrate God's love in all we do*
- *Respond to God through prayer*
- *Identify links with the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement (2010)*

EC105: Exploring Faith Formation

This module explores some concepts about development of faith at an early childhood level. At the heart of Catholic teaching is the belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God, and that all God created is good. It is in relationship that children come to know and value themselves and others as created in God's image and develop an appreciation of their own personal faith within the Catholic Church. Participants will reflect on theoretical concepts of faith development and relate it to the children in their centres through the curriculum.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- *Appreciate the meaning of faith seeking understanding*
- *Identify where they are at in their own faith development*
- *Recognise the faith development of infants, toddlers and young children*
- *Understand the role of the educator in children's relationship with God*
- *Identify links with the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement (2010)*

EC106: Exploring Spirituality

This module explores the development of a spiritual life at an early childhood level. Participants will reflect on how they assist young children to develop spirituality through links to the Catholic Early Childhood Curriculum Statement.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to

- *Develop their understanding of spirituality*
- *Understand how young children's spirituality awakens through their experiences of the world*
- *Recognise that we are called to a life in God*
- *Know how we nurture young children's wonder and mystery*
- *Develop the experience of prayer in various forms; silence, movement, spontaneous, verbal and non-verbal as appropriate*
- *Identify links with the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement (2010)*

EC107: Exploring Sacred Scripture

This module explores ways to actively engage with Sacred Scripture at an appropriate level for young children. Participants will reflect on appropriate ways to share Scripture with young children and link to the Catholic Early Childhood curriculum.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- *Understand that children learn through stories from Scripture and Tradition*
- *Have an awareness of God's Word through Sacred Scripture*
- *Understand that God's Word demonstrates God's unconditional love for us*
- *Participate in bringing about the Reign of God*
- *Identify links with the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement (2010)*

EC108: Exploring the Liturgical Year

This module explores the meaning and relevance of the Liturgical Year within the context of early childhood. Young children experience many aspects of the Liturgical Year through their attendance at Mass with their families and significant days that celebrate saints, events and holy days throughout the year. Participants will reflect on ways in which the curriculum can assist children to understand the significance of the Liturgical Year.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- *Recognise events, signs and symbols throughout the year that enhance understanding of the Church's story*
 - *Have an awareness of the Word of God throughout the Church's year*
 - *Know that there are opportunities for greater appreciation of our Christian life throughout the liturgical year*
 - *Recognise and celebrate the Communion of Saints*
 - *Provide for children to participate in age appropriate liturgies of the Word*
- Identify links with the Catholic Early Childhood Religious Education Curriculum Statement (2010)*