

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

ECE is an exciting career with lots of possibilities including becoming a kaiako, kaiāwhina or carer. These unit standards aim to provide students with the skills in early childhood learning and the care of infants, toddlers and young children.



Te Kura can offer students the opportunity to study ECE via Distance by ordering Level 2 & 3 unit standards through **Whānau Āwhina Plunket**.

The ECE Tertiary Link Programme is like another subject, but students are limited to completing 12-14 credits for the year (about 3 – 4 unit standards worth).

To be eligible to enrol, students MUST be enrolled with Te Kura as a Full-Time student or a Young Adult doing 3 or more Te Kura subjects. Students must also continue to engage with their Te Kura learning while enrolled in the ECE Tertiary Link Programme.

The work is digital (word documents) and includes a Learner Workbook and Assessment. Both will be emailed directly to students so they can type their answers. The work is open book and self-paced, but the Assessment must be submitted by the final due date in Term 4. When a student completes their Assessment, they need to email a copy to the Youth Transitions Team who will forward onto Whānau Āwhina Plunket for marking.

If a student prefers working with paper-based materials, printing and postage can be organized by Te Kura. Once a student completes their Assessment, they will need to scan/take a photo of each page of their Assessment and email to the Youth Transitions Team who will forward onto Whānau Āwhina Plunket for marking.

If you have any questions or you would like to enrol, please contact the **Youth Transitions Team coordinator** [Ces Lowe](#)

Important Dates 2026	
First day to enrol for 2026	TBCT
Last day to enrol for 2026	TBC
Last day to hand in Assessments for 2026	TBC

LEVEL 2 ECE Unit Standards 2026			
Unit Standard	Description	Level	Credits
23091 (Te Reo in the workplace)	<i>Communicate in the workplace using conversational te reo Māori and waiata</i>	2	5
29852 (Basic Needs & Nutrition)	<i>Demonstrate knowledge of the basic needs and nutrition that support young children's holistic wellbeing and development</i>	2	4
29853 (Child Health & Wellbeing)	<i>Demonstrate knowledge of health issues, practices and services to protect and enhance the wellbeing of young children</i>	2	4
29855 (Attachment Relationships)	<i>Describe attachment behaviours and strategies used to support transitions for young mokopuna/children</i>	2	3
29857 (Learning & Development)	<i>Describe patterns of development and learning for young mokopuna/children</i>	2	5
29858 (Play Experiences)	<i>Provide and reflect on the value of play experiences for a mokopuna/child's development and learning</i>	2	5
29860 (Relationships & Behaviour)	<i>Describe strategies and practices to develop positive relationships, social and emotional competence in young children</i>	2	6
29861 (Support Services)	<i>Identify and describe agencies/services available to support young mokopuna/children and whānau/families</i>	2	3
32988 (Basic Care Needs)	<i>Describe and demonstrate basic care needs and practices for young mokopuna/children</i>	2	5
32989 (Nutrition)	<i>Demonstrate knowledge of age-related food and nutrition relevant to healthy eating for young mokopuna/children</i>	2	3

LEVEL 3 ECE Unit Standards 2026			
Unit Standard	Description	Level	Credits
10019 (Safety)	<i>Describe and contribute to safe practices and a safe environment for mokopuna/children in an early childhood setting</i>	3	4
10026 (Learning & Development)	<i>Demonstrate knowledge of mokopuna/children's holistic development and learning in an early childhood setting</i>	3	5
26707 (Play)	<i>Describe the value of play and create resources for children's learning and development in an early childhood setting</i>	3	4
26708 (Relationships)	<i>Describe respectful, reciprocal and responsive relationships with mokopuna/children in an early childhood setting</i>	3	4
29864 (Attachment & Transitions)	<i>Demonstrate knowledge of attachment theories, behaviours and transition support in an early childhood setting</i>	3	3
29865 (Health & Wellbeing)	<i>Describe and reflect on practices to protect and promote the health and holistic wellbeing of young mokopuna/children</i>	3	4
29866 (Nutrition)	<i>Demonstrate knowledge of, apply and reflect on age-related nutrition needs for a child in an early childhood setting</i>	3	3
29868 (Professional Behaviour & Wellbeing)	<i>Describe professional behaviours and manage personal health and wellbeing in an early childhood setting</i>	3	3
29869 (Ethics)	<i>Demonstrate knowledge of ethical responsibility to guide practice in an early childhood setting</i>	3	3
29871 (Philosophies & Services)	<i>Describe and compare a range of ECE services and philosophies in Aotearoa New Zealand</i>	3	3
33034 (Te Whāriki)	<i>Describe Te Whāriki: He whāriki mātauranga mō ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa Early Childhood Curriculum</i>	3	3