Early Childhood Development & Education

The Diploma in Early Childhood Development & Education (ECDE) is conducted by the National Institute of Early Childhood Development (NIEC) in collaboration with Temasek Polytechnic at the NIEC (TP) campus. The qualification is recognised by the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) for graduates to register and practise as a pre-school teacher in Singapore.

This course will equip you with practical skill sets and the necessary professional knowledge to embark on a meaningful career as an early childhood educator. You will learn to appreciate the intricacies of children's development and curriculum planning, value the various early childhood perspectives, and cultivate a global mindset. You can also deepen your knowledge and skills in the use of Visual Arts in early childhood settings. As field-based learning is an integral part of the course, you will have the opportunity to be attached to pre-schools to observe and apply what you have learned and build your confidence in working with children and parents.

The Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) Training Award is available for students who are passionate about working with children and looking forward to having a career in the early childhood field.
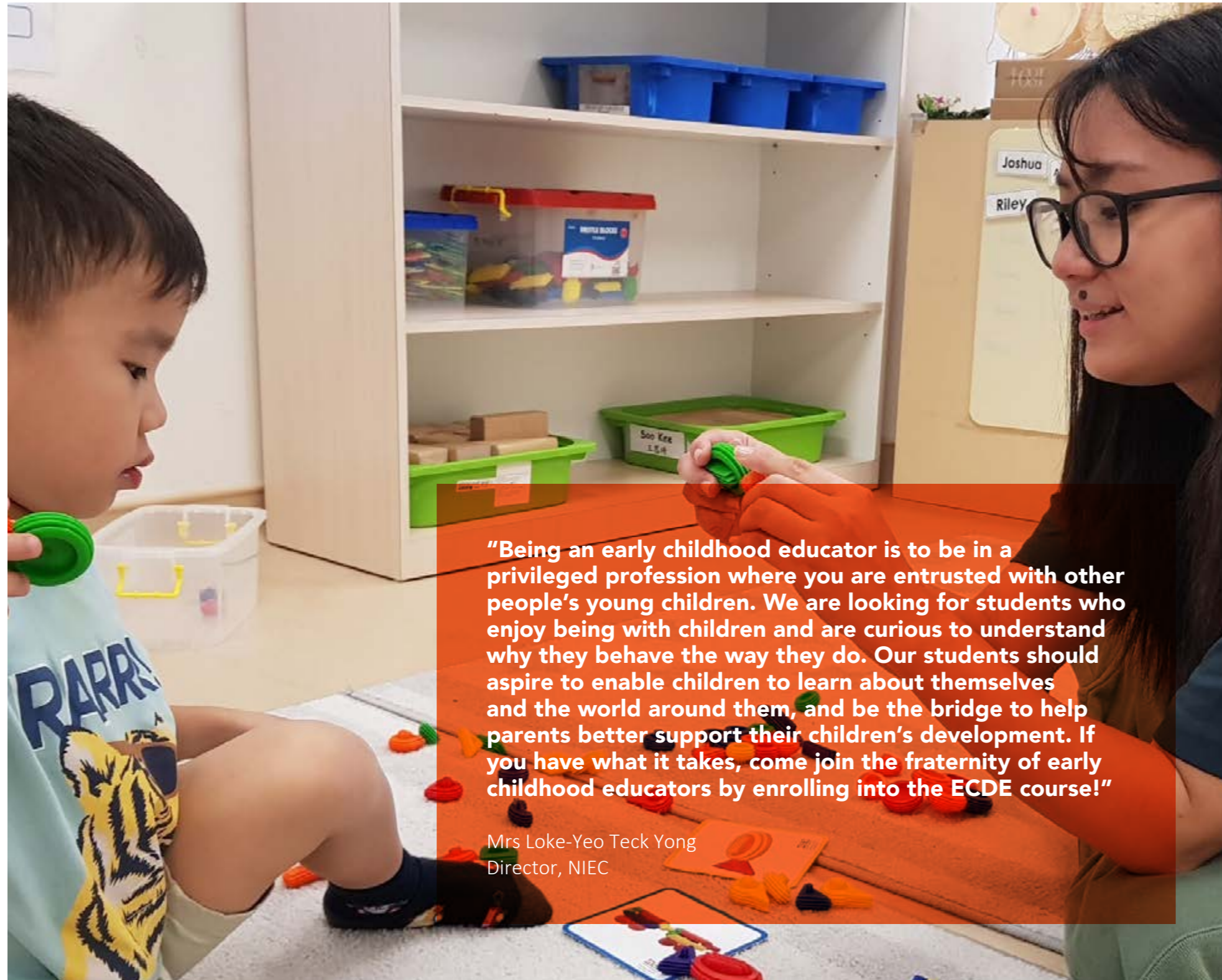
"Being an early childhood educator is to be in a privileged profession where you are entrusted with other people's young children. We are looking for students who enjoy being with children and are curious to understand why they behave the way they do. Our students should aspire to enable children to learn about themselves and the world around them, and be the bridge to help parents better support their children's development. If you have what it takes, come join the fraternity of early childhood educators by enrolling into the ECDE course!"

Mrs Loke-Yeo Teck Yong
Director, NIEC

Career Opportunities

Graduates from this course can work as early childhood educators or in children-related industries. With further studies and training, a wide variety of options are available in the following areas: child support and family services, curriculum specialist, writer of children's literature, event planner for children's events, and training of early childhood professionals.

Graduation Requirements

Cumulative Grade Point Average : min 1.0
TP Fundamentals : 24 credit units
Diploma Subjects
    Core Subjects : 104 credit units
    Elective Subjects : min 8 credit units
Total Credit Units Completed : min 136 credit units

Application

Apply during the Joint Admissions Exercise following the release of the GCE O Level results. For other categories of local applicants, please refer to the section on "Admission and Requirements". For international students, please refer to the section on "Information for International Students".

Entry Requirements for Singapore-Cambridge GCE O Level Qualification Holders

To be eligible for consideration for admission, applicants must obtain 26 points or better for the net ELR2B2 aggregate score (i.e. English Language, 2 relevant subjects and best 2 other subjects, including CCA Bonus Points) and meet the minimum entry requirements of this course. CCA cannot be used to meet the minimum entry requirements.

For details on GCE O Level Minimum Entry Requirements, refer to page 191.

*Note: To be granted teacher certification status to teach up to kindergarten levels by the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA), new teachers must have obtained a minimum grade of B4 for EL1. Applicants with a C5 or C6 in GCE O-Level EL are given two years from the point of teacher registration to obtain at least a B4 or other English Language Acceptable Alternatives (ELAA). Refer to **bit.ly/ecdeelaa** for the list of ELAA.*

Applicants would need to be certified medically fit for study by a certified medical doctor, in the context of working with young children. That is, the requirements will be aligned to ECDA's medical requirements for pre-school teachers.

Foreign Qualifications

1. Formal education in English:
    • Completed 10 years of formal education in the English language, and
    • Passed the state exam in five different subjects, including obtaining a C6 in the GCE O Level EL1 paper or any of the accepted alternatives.[1]

2. Formal education not in English
    • Obtained an undergraduate degree with English as the medium of instruction from a state-recognised university.[2]

[1] Please refer to table (List of English Acceptable Alternatives) in this link: **bit.ly/ecdeelaa**

[2] This also applies to applicants with state-recognised PhD/Master degrees with English as the medium of instruction.

Course Structure

TP FUNDAMENTALS (TPFun) SUBJECTS			
SUBJECT CODE	SUBJECT	LEVEL	CREDIT UNITS
GCC1001	Current Issues & Critical Thinking	1	2
GCS1006	Communication & Information Literacy	1	2
GCS1007	Workplace Communication	1	2
GCS1008	Persuasive Communication	1	2
GGS1002	Global Studies	1	3
GGS1003	Managing Diversity at Work*	1	3
GGS1004	Global Citizenship & Community Development*	1	3
GGS1005	Expressions of Culture*	1	3
GIN1001	Innovation & Entrepreneurship	1	2
LEA1011	Leadership: Essential Attributes & Practice 1	1	1
LEA1012	Leadership: Essential Attributes & Practice 2	1	1
LEA1013	Leadership: Essential Attributes & Practice 3	1	1
LSW1002	Sports & Wellness	1	2
MCR1001	Career Readiness 1	1	1
MCR1002	Career Readiness 2	1	1
MCR1003	Career Readiness 3	1	1
TGL1001	Guided Learning	1	3

Students must choose one of these three subjects or TGL1001 Guided Learning.

DIPLOMA SUBJECTS - CORE SUBJECTS

SUBJECT CODE	SUBJECT	LEVEL	CREDIT UNITS
GED1000	Practicum 1	1	7
GED1101	Child Development 1	1	4
GED1102	Child Safety, Health & Socio-Emotional Well-Being	1	4
GED1103	Aesthetics & Creative Expression	1	4
GED1201	Child Development 2	1	4
GED1202	Language & Literacy	1	4
GED1203	The Professional & Reflective Practitioner	1	4
GED1204	InfoComm Technology Essentials	1	2
GED1205	Principles & Practices in Early Education	1	4
GED2000	Practicum 2	2	13
GED2101	Effective Learning Environment for Young Children	2	4
GED2102	Discovery of the World	2	4
GED2103	Motor Skills Development	2	4
GED2104	Early Numeracy	2	4
GED2201	Curriculum Planning & Implementation	2	4
GED2202	Socio-Emotional Learning	2	4
GED2203	Working with the Exceptional Child	2	4
GED2204	Family & Community Partnership	2	4
GED3000	Student Internship Programme	3	22

DIPLOMA SUBJECTS - ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

SUBJECT CODE	SUBJECT	LEVEL	CREDIT UNITS
GXA3001	2D & 3D Art #*	3	4
GXA3002	Digital & New Media #*	3	4
GXA3003	Book Illustration & Design for Children #*	3	4
GXN3004	Classroom Management & Strategies in Early Childhood Intervention*	3	4
GXN3005	Early Intervention & the Inclusive Curriculum*	3	4
GXT3006	Transcultural Issues & Practices in Early Childhood*	3	4

*Students can choose to take any two electives from the above, or be part of the Visual Arts track by taking the three electives with #.