

Early Childhood Education



Charles Sturt University (CSU) recognises the importance of the educator's role in children's lives and is committed to ensuring its early childhood education graduates have the strong practical skills and theoretical underpinning necessary to make a positive impact on children's lives.

Students can build on their diploma qualification by undertaking CSU's Bachelor of Teaching (Birth to 5 Years), which will provide them with a three-year teaching degree. They may then build on this by enrolling in the Bachelor of Education (Birth to 5 Years) securing them a four-year degree. Alternatively, students may prefer to build on their diploma by enrolling in the Bachelor of Education (Birth to 5 years) from the outset.

CSU's Bachelor of Teaching (Birth to 5 Years)

This course, offered by distance education, is designed for early childhood graduates who have completed at least a Diploma in Children's Services-Centre Based Care or a Diploma of Community Services (Children's Services-Centre Based Care). The course aims to:

- develop specialised and advanced studies in curriculum, leadership, pedagogy for birth to five-year-olds and inclusive and Indigenous education
- increase professional skills and knowledge to accurately reflect the importance of early childhood education and care
- explore current early childhood research and provide students with the means to apply this research with an increased level of critical thinking and competency.

CSU's Bachelor of Education (Birth to 5 Years)

This course, offered by distance education, is designed to build on the previous training and experience of Diploma in Children's Services and Bachelor of Teaching (Birth to 5 Years) graduates. The course aims to:

- familiarise students with the educational and social contexts that impact upon practice
- provide a firm grounding in the discipline knowledge and methods of teaching relevant to successful implementation of early childhood education and care content
- develop students' understanding of children and families, and the communities in which they will teach
- familiarise students with the research informing pedagogy for diverse learner groups.

In both courses, graduates assume roles as teachers, directors, leaders and managers of early childhood services.

Some reasons for studying early childhood education at CSU

- students receive substantial credit for their diploma
- these courses are nationally recognised qualifications
- these courses afford students flexibility in their study
- graduates enjoy a rewarding career working with children and families where they can really make a difference



Articulation and credit

CSU's Bachelor of Teaching (Birth to 5 Years) articulates with the Bachelor of Education (Birth to 5 Years). The Bachelor of Teaching (Birth to 5 Years) will remain as an entry degree as well as an exit component from the Bachelor of Education (Birth to 5 Years). Students can apply for the following credit:

Bachelor of Teaching (Birth to 5 Years)

All students are granted two years' credit (128 points) in recognition of their existing Diploma qualifications.

Bachelor of Education (Birth to 5 Years)

- 128 points will be awarded if students hold a Diploma in Children's Services-Centre Based Care entry level
- full credit will be granted (192 points) to students with a CSU Bachelor of Teaching (Birth to 5 Years) or equivalent.

Workplace learning

Both courses include professional experience placements, which students are required to complete in an early childhood setting other than their current workplace.

Admission requirements

Bachelor of Teaching (Birth to 5 Years)

Prospective students must hold one of the following qualifications:

- Diploma in Children's Services-Centre Based Care
- Diploma of Community Services (Children's Services Centre-based Care)
- an equivalent qualification deemed appropriate by the Faculty of Education.

Bachelor of Education (Birth to 5 Years)

Prospective students must hold one of the following:

- Bachelor of Teaching (Birth to 5 Years) or equivalent
- three-year Bachelor of Early Childhood teaching qualification
- Diploma in Children's Services-Centre Based Care
- Diploma of Community Services (Children's Services-Centre Based Care)
- an equivalent qualification deemed appropriate by the Faculty of Education.

To be successful in university study, all students must be highly competent in spoken and written English.

Criminal record checks

All students are required to complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration and must undergo a criminal record check prior to placement in early childhood services. Prospective students should be aware that not passing a criminal record check will make it difficult for them to complete these courses satisfactorily.



Lynette Funnell

Graduate in early childhood education

"I chose Charles Sturt University as I considered the philosophies behind their early childhood courses holistic in seeking to build a broader understanding of the field.

"Individual topics consisted of a variety of formats, including the increasing use of information technology to challenge me, while distance education learning allowed me to balance my commitments with the support of fellow students and lecturer contact to sustain me.

"CSU's early childhood courses have challenged me to consider different perspectives and ways of teaching and learning. They have encouraged me to reflect on both past and contemporary theories and practices, and provoked me to engage in robust discussion around many relevant issues.

"Working as a teacher in a rural/remote community preschool provides me with opportunities to continue to advocate for the importance of quality early education experiences and relationships. In the future, I hope my study may assist in opportunities to mentor fellow students in the field."

www.csu.edu.au

For more information about courses and how to apply, please contact info.csu:

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