



Childcare & Education Guide

 Open Study College

About us

Here at Open Study College (OSC), we are a distance learning provider committed to empowering people to flourish and achieve their goals. We understand that life is busy, that's why we offer over 650 courses that allow you to fit your studies around your work and life commitments. As a family-founded college, we think of our team, our tutors and most importantly, our learners as members of our extended family.



 Open Study College

Our family story

Founded by father and daughter, Mark and Samantha Rutter, OSC have been operating since 2007. Mark has decades of experience within the distance learning industry. He is passionate about helping people to better themselves and felt the industry could do so much more to support learners, including offering higher-quality courses and better tutor support. He decided to sacrifice a senior career, sell the family home and put everything into setting up Open Study College with his daughter, Samantha.

The college has continued to grow over the years, as we started to write more of our own courses and the demand for more flexible education increased.

We now have a fantastic team of 50, including knowledgeable course advisers and friendly student support staff, as well as a nationwide team of expert tutors. So far, we've helped over 100,000 people enrol on courses that have helped them achieve their goals!



Student benefits

Trusted qualifications

Accredited by nationally recognised, independent accounting and bookkeeping awarding bodies, you can feel confident when studying towards your qualification with OSC. Benchmarked against the highest of industry standards, our courses could open the door to your dream career in finance!

Externally verified

With the seal of approval granted by external associations such as the European Association for Distance Learning (EADL), you can feel confident that you are studying with one of the UK's largest and most trusted learning providers.

Full tutor support

Throughout your study journey, you will be provided with a specialist tutor, who will offer unlimited expert support and guidance throughout your chosen course.

Student perks

Once you have enrolled with us, you will receive a FREE XO Student Discounts card, allowing you to enjoy a variety of exclusive discounts on clothes, food, holidays and more.

Affordable study

We believe you should invest in your future and our affordable and competitive prices allow you to invest without worry. We offer flexible payment plans to enable you to spread the cost of learning across monthly, stress-free payments.

Flexibility

We understand trying to balance getting a qualification alongside work and other commitments. With OSC you are in control of your learning; you decide when, where and how you study. Unlike traditional colleges, there is no schedule and deadline pressure, so you can fit your course around your lifestyle and study in your own time.

Student benefits (continued)

Career support

We are invested in you and your career, that's why when you enrol with OSC you'll have access to a whole host of benefits to help you achieve the career you dream of, including:

- Free CV critique service - a strong CV that details your experience and education, including your OSC course, can help you land your dream job. This free service will review your CV and provide helpful pointers on what you could do to improve your CV.
- Recruitment support - if you need support with finding and applying for the perfect job, our partnership with a national recruitment agency can help.
- Career guides - we regularly publish career guides on our website to help you find out more about the jobs and industries you're interested in.
- Employability guide - whether you're applying for your first job, looking to jump back into the job market, or you just want to refresh your knowledge, our free employability guide offers tips and advice to boost your efforts in finding and securing a new role.



CACHE

The majority of the courses we offer within the childcare and education sector are CACHE qualifications.

Who are CACHE?

The Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education (CACHE) are the UK's leading provider of vocational qualifications for those working within care and education. CACHE qualifications are recognised across the education and care industries and they are amongst the most well-known and respected qualifications

Our range of CACHE vocational qualifications are suitable for individuals involved in early years, education, childcare, and health and social care. All courses lead to a nationally recognised Ofqual regulated qualification and are accredited on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF).

CACHE work closely with employers and learners to ensure that students have a progression route whether it's into further study, a career or university. These qualifications have helped millions of people obtain the skills and knowledge they need to meet the professional standards required in the care, education and health industries.

Types of CACHE qualifications

Certain CACHE qualifications are available as either an award, certificate or diploma. These are known as nested qualifications. Nested qualifications allow learners to top up their previous studies in a subject to achieve the next qualification in the group. This allows learners to progress from the award to the certificate and then the diploma.

CACHE Alumni membership

Once you have enrolled on your CACHE course, you will have access to the CACHE Alumni Membership for two years. CACHE Alumni is a professional membership network for those who work in the care, health and education industries, providing valuable resources and advice for your studies when working towards/with a CACHE qualification.

TQUK

Training Qualifications UK (TQUK) are another awarding body who endorses a number of our childcare and education-related courses. TQUK are an Ofqual regulated awarding body. They cover courses in first aid, health and safety, food safety, education and training.

TQUK courses are not official qualifications, but they are recognised by industry employers. Their courses are an ideal way to boost your knowledge in a specific subject and progress with your professional development. At the end of your TQUK course you will receive a certificate of achievement to demonstrate that you have completed a course which has provided you with knowledge relevant to your career.



Natalie's story

"I'm doing a job I love, with the family flexibility I want."

When the company where Natalie worked as an office manager went through a takeover, things changed. As a mum with a young family, it meant that the previous job flexibility no longer existed, and her role changed to include travel more often than she wanted. Things had to change, as Natalie told us:

"My role first and foremost is to be a mum and my children will always be the top priority. My previous role allowed me to be in the office just for the core office hours. This allowed me to be there for school drop off and pick up, but with the takeover that changed. The demands on my time at work were increasing and I didn't want to compromise the care of my children for the sake of work. I had to look at other options."

Natalie spoke with her husband and they came to the decision that she should look at other careers which provided the flexibility their family needed. Thinking about what she enjoyed doing, Natalie had always helped at the primary school her children attended with reading and other activities. Natalie found that extremely rewarding and decided that working in a school as a teaching assistant could be a job that would meet her and the families' needs.

"I spoke to the headmaster at the school my children attended and asked whether they would support. I needed to work in the school to get the practical experience to complete a CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools and they agreed."



Natalie's story (continued)

"I looked at local colleges, online learning and at all the options available. Open Study College was the best route for me as it meant I could complete the course at my own pace and still be there to collect my children after school. It also meant I could continue to work whilst I studied which kept the money coming in. This way of learning is absolutely perfect for anyone who needs an income whilst studying towards a new career."

"I worked at my own pace and managed to complete some of the course before I started my official placement in September. What was really interesting was the level of work I completed, and the tutor support I received through Open Study College was far superior to some of the more traditional routes offered. I delivered 360 observations, essays, feedback and evidence which were very in depth. Yet, I had the beauty of working and studying around my children rather than 9-4 in a lecture room."

Natalie worked through the course quickly and took just six months to complete the level 3. In less than one year after leaving her job, Natalie qualified as a teaching assistant and started working in a school.

"I was delighted when I qualified in March and after a few months working in my children's school, to build up my confidence, I signed up with a teaching agency. This would broaden my knowledge and experience. I started a supply contract in the September, and I worked at a variety of schools from rural to a tougher inner-city school before settling in a permanent, full time position."

As if the rewards from gaining a new career aren't enough, Natalie says that the most rewarding is the lightbulb moments.

"I love working with the children. It's the most rewarding when you explain something and when they grasp the concept, when the lights turn on, that's the moment which makes it all worthwhile. It's empowering the children with self-belief, unlocking their potential and showing them how to make the best of themselves. It's really rewarding for me and for my own children it means I'm the best mum I can be. No more juggling."

"It's been life changing for me. Not many people can say they love their job. A year ago, I couldn't, now I can. It's a career I love giving me the family flexibility I want."

Jessica's story

"It was the best decision I've ever made. Thanks to Open Study College I'm now working full time in my chosen career."

Jessica recently completed her Level 2 certificate in the principles of working with individuals with learning disabilities, studying with Open Study College. She is now in her chosen career as a support worker for people with Down's syndrome, and talks about why she decided to follow the distance learning route:

"Open Study College offered me great flexibility to work alongside my studies. This balance ensured that I was growing both academically but also gaining essential on-the-job practical experience, which is really important for my future.

"Whilst studying I was a support worker for people with Down's Syndrome. I work for a charity called Project 21 who run activities, clubs and events for people with Down's Syndrome.



Jessica's story (continued)

"I also worked privately as a personal assistant, so this, coupled with my charity and social care work, meant that I needed to be able to fit everything in and with OSC that was possible. My course gave me the full freedom that I needed - I also enjoyed that I could complete my studies from anywhere and wasn't restrained to a college or classroom."

When asked about challenges she might have faced, Jessica talks about finding the course really well organised and describes her experience with the Open Study College team:

"I didn't feel as though I faced many challenges at all whilst completing my course; it was a smooth sailing experience. The Open Study College team fully supported me in gaining experience and knowledge in the career I wanted to have, which helped achieve the goal I had from the very start."

Jessica offers some advice to those thinking of choosing Open Study College as their distance learning provider and also explains where she is currently at with her career and achieving her goals:

"I would definitely tell anyone who's thinking about starting an Open Study College course to go for it! It was the best decision I've ever made. Thanks to them, I'm now working full-time in my chosen career, working with individuals with learning disabilities."

Early years courses

Our early years courses are ideal for those wanting to work with children from birth up to the age of five. These courses cover all you need to know about the development and care of younger children and are ideal for those wanting to work in early years settings such as nurseries and preschools, as well as those looking to become a childminder or nanny.



CACHE Level 1 Caring for Children

This qualification provides students with the knowledge and the skills needed to care for young children. Learn about a child's growth, learning and development. The qualification also includes units to help with self-development.

This is a nested qualification, meaning students can choose to study either the award, certificate or diploma. Learners can then top up their level 1 award or certificate in caring for children to achieve either a certificate or diploma qualification.

Who is it for?

For those considering a career in caring for children. The course can also support you with re-engaging with learning and breaking down barriers to you entering the childcare workforce.

What are the requirements?

You must be aged 14 or over to study this course. You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

After completing this nested qualification, you can choose to study either CACHE Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce or CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Introducing Caring for Children and Young People.

Course options

[CACHE Level 1 Award in Caring for Children](#)

[CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Caring for Children](#)

[CACHE Level 1 Diploma in Caring for Children](#)

CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Introducing Caring for Children and Young People

This qualification provides an opportunity to study a range of topics from three main areas: childcare and education, babysitting, and parenting responsibilities. You'll gain an understanding of young children's development, healthy lifestyles, respecting and valuing children and more.

Who is it for?

This course is for people who want to get into childcare.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

Upon completion of this course, you can progress on to the Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

CACHE Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce

This qualification is designed to help learners build the knowledge and skills needed when working with children and young people from birth to 19 years of age. It covers a diverse range of job roles and occupational areas including working in early year's settings.

It is also a must-have qualification for all those undertaking the Level 2 Children and Young People's Apprenticeship, outside of an early year's setting.

Who is it for?

This course is ideal for anyone who wants to work, or has started to work, in a childcare setting.

What are the requirements?

You must be at least 16 years old to study this course and you are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course. However, you will need to secure a placement or be working in a nursery, pre-school or school in mainland UK.

What's next?

Once you have completed this course, you can apply for roles such as:

- Assistant pre-school workers
- Assistant in children's centres
- Assistant in day nurseries, nursery schools and nursery classes

Alternatively, you can progress your studies and complete a level 3 qualification to take your career even further.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

CACHE Level 3 Award in Home-Based Childcare

This qualification prepares learners to work in a home-based childcare setting as a registered childminder or nanny. It's been developed in collaboration with PACEY (Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years).

You'll learn how to create a safe and healthy childcare environment, support the safeguarding and welfare of children in your care and manage a home-based childcare setting.

Who is it for?

This course is for anyone looking to work within a home-based childcare setting as either a childminder or a nanny.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course, the only requirement is that you must be at least 16 years of age.

What's next?

On successful completion of this course, you will become a fully qualified childminder or nanny. You will be eligible to work in the following roles:

- Registered childminder
- Childminding assistant
- Nanny
- Au pair
- Other childcare roles in home-based settings

Course options

There are two routes you can take with this course: childminding or becoming a nanny. The two courses cover similar topics, but the content of each course is tailored to the specific route you choose.

Click the course title below to find out more:

[CACHE Level 3 Award in Home Based Childcare – Childminder Route](#)

[CACHE Level 3 Award in Home Based Childcare – Nanny Route](#)

CACHE Level 3 Award in Childcare and Education

The CACHE Level 3 Award in Childcare and Education provides understanding of a child's development from conception to seven years old, as well as how to care for the health and wellbeing of children.

Who is it for?

This course is ideal for those wanting to start their journey towards working in a childcare setting.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course. You must be at least 16 years of age.

What's next?

Once you have successfully completed this course, you can progress to studying the Level 3 Diploma for the Early Year's Workforce in order to become a fully qualified early year's educator and practitioner.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator)

The Level 3 Diploma for the Early Year's Workforce (Early Years Educator) prepares learners to become an early year's educator or practitioner, also known as a nursery nurse. Upon successful completion of this qualification, learners can work apply for roles as early year's practitioner and educator roles in early year's settings working with children from birth to five years of age.

The course covers the health and well-being of children, their development, play and learning to prepare them for school. You will also study the legislation, frameworks and professional practice.

Who is it for?

This course is for those wanting to become a fully qualified early year's educator. It is for those either currently working or wanting to work in an early year's setting. It is also suitable for those wishing to progress to higher education.

What are the requirements?

Having both GCSE Maths and English at Grade 4 (C) or above, or Functional Skills Level 2 in both Maths and English are required to secure employment in this area and be counted in staff:child ratios. If you don't have these qualifications, don't worry, we can help you with this. You will also need to have secured a placement in an early year's setting to enrol onto this course.

What's next?

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to progress into roles such as:

- Practitioner in a reception class in a primary school
- Assistant in a children's centre
- Practitioner in a nursery school
- Pre-school worker

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

Nursery Management Level 3

Our nursery management course is a knowledge-only course that provides learners with an understanding of what it takes to become a nursery manager and what the role involves. Although it is not industry recognised, this course can support your CV with extra knowledge if you currently work in a nursery setting and plan to move into a management role. You will learn how to create a positive nursery environment and ensure the health and safety children and staff alike. Improve your knowledge of the importance of play for young children, including indoor and outdoor play.

Who is it for?

This course is designed for those currently working in a nursery setting with the goal of entering a management-level career in a nursery or pre-school setting.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study Nursery Management Level 3.

What's next?

Learners can use the knowledge gained on this course to help them progress to a more senior role within a nursery setting.

[Find out more about our Nursery Management course here.](#)

Teaching assistant & support work courses

Our teaching assistant and support worker courses are ideal for those looking to work in a support role in a school or college setting. Whether you're just starting out in your career or you're already working in education, our courses cover everything you need to know.



NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award in Support Work in Schools and Colleges

This course is perfect for anyone looking for a career in a support role in a school setting. During your studies you'll gain an understanding of how to communicate and develop relationships with children and adults in an educational environment, as well as how to safeguard children and young people in the setting among other units of study.

Who is it for?

This course is ideal for anyone who wants to work in a support role in a school.

What are the requirements?

You must be aged 16 or over to enrol on this course. You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study our NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award in Support Work in Schools course.

What's next?

Once you have successfully completed this course, you can take your studies further and progress to the Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools. Alternatively, if you wish to apply for roles in a school, this course covers a wide range of job roles in a school environment including learning support, and technical and administrative roles, all of which you can consider.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

NCFE CACHE Supporting Teaching and Learning

If you are looking for a course to help you become a qualified teaching assistant, you can choose between our level 2 and level 3 suite of Supporting Teaching and Learning qualifications from NCFE and CACHE.

Over the next few pages, we will explain the level 2 and 3 qualifications to help you understand which path is right for you.

Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning

This qualification is ideal for those looking to pursue a career as a teaching assistant. The course will provide you with the knowledge and skills to support pupils in primary, secondary or SEN schools with their learning.

Who is it for?

This course is for anyone looking to work in a teaching assistant role or any other role that supports pupils' learning.

What are the requirements?

You must be aged 16 or over to enrol on this course. You will need to be working, volunteering or be able to secure a practical placement within a school or college environment to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and skills in order to study this course.

What's next?

Once you have successfully completed this course, you can apply for a position as a teaching assistant, learning support assistant or special educational needs assistant. Alternatively, you can also progress your studies further and complete a level 3 qualification in Supporting Teaching and Learning.

[Find out more about our Level 2 Supporting Teaching and Learning course here.](#)

NCFE CACHE Supporting Teaching and Learning (continued)

OSC's range of Level 3 Supporting Teaching and Learning qualifications sit within CACHE's nested suite of courses. Students can top up their studies to achieve the full nested qualification if they desire, or study one qualification type alone. The nested qualification starts with the award, then the certificate and finally the diploma.

Each of the courses in this nested qualification will provide you with the knowledge and skills you need to work with children and young people in primary, secondary or SEN schools, allowing you to become a fully qualified teaching assistant on completion of the course.

Who is it for?

The qualifications in this suite are ideal for anyone looking for a nationally recognised qualification that will allow them to become a qualified teaching assistant.

What are the requirements?

Each of the qualifications in this nested suite can be studied by learners over the age of 16 and you do not need any previous qualifications. However, students must have basic IT skills and be fluent in English.

If you choose to study the certificate or diploma, you must also be working or volunteering in a school or college from key stage one as these courses require you to complete a work placement and provide evidence and observations as part of your assessment.

A work placement is not required for you to complete the level 3 award.

What's next?

Once you have successfully completed one of the above level 3 qualifications, you can apply for a variety of unsupervised roles that support children and young people with their education in a school or college, including the following roles:

- Teaching assistants
- Learning support assistants
- Special needs assistants

Find out more about each course in the level 3 nested suite by clicking the course below:

[NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Supporting Teaching and Learning](#)

[NCFE CACHE Level 3 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning](#)

[CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning](#)

NCFE CACHE Level 4 Certificate for the Advanced Practitioner in Schools and Colleges

This is the perfect course for anyone currently working in a teaching assistant or support role in a school or college looking to take the next step in their career. With this nationally recognised level 4 qualification, you will be able to progress become a higher-level teaching assistant/advanced practitioner.

Who is it for?

This qualification is for anyone currently working in a level 3 position in a school or college that wishes to progress to the next level.

What are the requirements?

You must be aged 18 or over to study this course and currently working in a level 3 role or above in a school or college.

A previous level 3 qualification would be an advantage, but it is not essential. However, it is essential that you have experience, knowledge and understanding of working in a school or college environment to study this course.

What's next?

Once you have successfully completed this course, you can progress to the following roles:

- Higher level practitioner/teaching assistant
- Progress internally to a higher level, including roles with management responsibilities
- Opportunities in leadership, mentoring, supervision and management

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

Special educational needs courses

Courses in this section are for those wanting to work with those people with special educational needs. These courses are designed to provide you with the knowledge and skills you need to support those with additional needs effectively. You will have the opportunity to boost your professional development and expand your skillset through studying this range of courses.



CACHE Level 3 Award in Supporting Individuals with Learning Disabilities

This qualification will help you to develop your knowledge of how you can support individuals with learning disabilities in your role. This course covers areas such as promoting communication with individuals with learning disabilities, supporting them as they transition into adulthood and more.

Who is it for?

This course will benefit anyone working in a role in which they are supporting individuals with learning disabilities as part of their job role.

What are the requirements?

You must be at least 16 years of age to study this course. You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

Once you have completed this course, you can add it to your CV to demonstrate your knowledge and boost your prospects. You can also apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during the course in your current role.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

Speech, Language and Communications in Schools Level 3

This course is a knowledge-based course that gives learners the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of effective speech, language and communication in a school environment. The course content focuses on how to support children and young people with speech, language or communication difficulties in an educational environment, making it the ideal course for those working with children who additional needs when speaking/communicating, or whose first language is not English.

Who is it for?

Our Speech, Language and Communications in Schools Level 3 course is perfect for anyone working in a childcare or education environment who is looking to improve their understanding to better support children or young people with difficulties in speech, language or communication.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

Once you have completed this course, you can add it to your CV to boost your prospects, and also apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during the course in your current role.

[Find out more about our Speech, Language and Communications in Schools Level 3 course here.](#)

Special Educational Needs SEN Level 3

This course has been designed for those wanting to work with children who have special educational needs, to provide a level of knowledge and understanding on how to work them effectively. With content such as how to promote their development, supporting children with chronic illnesses and physical disabilities and meeting their social, emotional and behavioural needs.

Who is it for?

This course is ideal for anyone currently working in a role in a childcare or education setting who is working with children with special educational needs.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study our Special Educational Needs SEN Level 3 course.

What's next?

This knowledge-based course will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during your studies to your current role, as well as being a great addition to your CV to help you stand out to any future employers.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

Understanding Autism Level 3

Are you in a role where it would be helpful to improve your understanding of Autism and how you can better support individuals with this special educational need? This Understanding Autism course will provide you with a full understanding of the condition and how to support an autistic individual with their communication, social interactions and behaviour.

Who is it for?

This course is ideal for anyone currently working in a childcare or education who are working with children or young people with autism.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

This knowledge-based course will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during your studies to your current role, as well as being a great addition to your CV to help you stand out to any future employers.

[Find out more about our Understanding Autism Level 3 course here.](#)

Children & young people's wellbeing courses

Courses in this section offer ways for you to expand your knowledge and skills to better support the wellbeing of the children and young people you work with on a daily basis.



CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health

When working with children and young people, it is critical that their mental health is prioritised. Therefore, it is vital that those working with children and young people have an understanding of the factors that can affect them, the impact of mental health concerns in children and young people and how to support them. This all-important content is covered on this course to give you a comprehensive understanding of children and young people's mental health.

Who is it for?

This is suitable for anyone looking to increase their knowledge of children and young people's mental health. It's particularly helpful for those working within a support role in a school or college setting.

What are the requirements?

You must be aged 16 or over to enrol on this course. You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

This qualification will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during your studies to your current role, as well as being a great addition to your CV to help you stand out to any future employers by demonstrating your knowledge and your commitment to your career development.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

Understanding Safeguarding Children Level 3

It is essential to have an understanding of safeguarding laws, policies and procedures when working with children and young people. This knowledge-based course will provide you with information on the relevant legislation, conditions children need safeguarding against and how you can actively safeguard the children and young people you work with and create a child protection plan.

Who is it for?

This is suitable for anyone working with children or young people in a childcare or education setting who is looking to improve their knowledge of safeguarding policies.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

This knowledge-based qualification will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during your studies to your current role, as well as being a great addition to your CV to help you stand out to any future employers and demonstrate your knowledge of safeguarding laws and policies.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

Managing Children's Behaviour Level 2

Children are prone to displaying challenging behaviour from time to time, and when working with them it is important you not only understand how to manage their behaviour, but also have an insight into the factors that could be influencing their behaviour and how to communicate with parents.

Who is it for?

This course is ideal for anyone working with children in a childcare, education or recreational settings such as sports clubs.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

This knowledge-based course will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during your studies to your current role, as well as being a great addition to your CV to help you stand out to any future employers by demonstrating your knowledge and your commitment to your career development.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

Counselling Children and Adolescents Level 4

Do you currently work in a role that could benefit from learning more about counselling children and adolescents? Or maybe there are opportunities for you to progress to a role that focusses on counselling children and young people? This knowledge-based course is a great way to gain essential knowledge of counselling to develop in your career.

The course is also approved by an independent professional body, ACCPH (accredited counsellors, coaches, psychotherapists and hypnotherapists), and on completion you will also be able to become a member of the body.

Who is it for?

This course is ideal for anyone considering a pastoral role in an education setting such as a school counsellor or looking to expand their knowledge to better support the children and young people they currently work with.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

This knowledge-based course will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during your studies to your current role, as well as being a great addition to your CV to help you develop in your career and stand out to any future employers by demonstrating your knowledge and your commitment to your career development.

As mentioned above, you can also become a member of the ACCPH on successful completion of your course.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

Grief Counselling Level 3

Unfortunately, it isn't just adults that experience grief, children can also be deeply affected by the loss of a loved one. This course will help you to understand the stages of grief, symptoms in children, and the techniques available to provide you with the valuable skills you need to support children and young people in your setting as they cope with a bereavement.

The course is also approved by an independent professional body, ACCPH (accredited counsellors, coaches, psychotherapists and hypnotherapists), and on completion you will also be able to become a member of the body.

Who is it for?

This course is ideal for anyone working in a childcare or education environment who are looking to expand their skillset in order to better support the children and young people in their setting.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

This knowledge-based course will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during your studies to your current role, as well as being a good addition to your CV to help you develop in your career and stand out to any future employers.

As mentioned above, you can also become a member of the ACCPH on successful completion of your course.

[Find out more about this Grief Counselling course here.](#)

Understanding Abuse and Trauma Level 2

When working with children and young people in a childcare or education setting, it is really important that you understand the different types of abuse and are able to identify the signs to ensure that any child affected by this in your setting can get the support and help they desperately need. This course will provide you with the knowledge and skills you need to respond to child abuse and support the child.

Who is it for?

This course is ideal for anyone working in a childcare or education environment who are looking to expand their skillset to better support the children and young people in their setting.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study this course.

What's next?

This knowledge-based course will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during your studies to your current role, as well as being a good addition to your CV to help you develop in your career and stand out to any future employers.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

Child Psychology Level 3

If you're looking to expand your knowledge of how children think and why they behave the way they do, this child psychology course could be ideal. With course content that covers how children form relationships, their emotional, social and moral development and how their memory works, this course provides a useful insight into the workings of a child's mind for anyone who works closely with children.

The course is also approved by an independent professional body, ACCPH (accredited counsellors, coaches, psychotherapists and hypnotherapists), and on completion you will also be able to become a member of the body.

Who is it for?

This course is ideal for anyone working with children in a childcare or education setting looking to understand the behaviour and mental development of children.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study our Child Psychology Level 3 course.

What's next?

This knowledge-based course will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during your studies to your current role, as well as being a great addition to your CV to help you develop in your career and stand out to any future employers by demonstrating your knowledge and your commitment to your career development.

As mentioned above, you can also become a member of the ACCPH on successful completion of your course.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

Nutrition for Young Children Level 3

If you work in a childcare setting where you are responsible for providing children with snacks and meals, you will need to ensure that the food you are offering meets their nutritional needs. This course includes information on the dietary requirements of children, how to provide a balanced diet in a childcare setting and dealing with allergies and intolerances, all of which are essential when caring for children.

Who is it for?

This course is suitable for anyone working with young children in a childcare setting, including childminders, nannies, and early years environments.

What are the requirements?

You are not required to have any prior experience or qualifications to study our Nutrition for Young Children Level 3 course.

What's next?

This knowledge-based course will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have gained during your studies to your current role, as well as being a great addition to your CV to help you develop in your career and stand out to any future employers.

[Find out more about this course here.](#)

A day in the life of a teaching assistant

A teaching assistant is a vital role within the school community. They assist the teacher with daily classroom and teaching responsibilities, and also act as a role model for children and help to educate future generations.

Marie has been a teaching assistant for 20 years. She loves the job and wants to tell her story to inspire more people to do the same.

Tell us a bit about yourself and your home life

I am a married mum of three adult children and a teaching assistant as you know. There's not much to say to be completely honest. I am quite "normal" in most respects. I'm part of a women's running group and spend most of my free time with my family and friends. I'd say I'm quite active. I'm a member of the National Trust so enjoy visiting historical sites and exploring the English countryside.

What made you want to become a teaching assistant?

I didn't know straight away that I wanted to be a teaching assistant, but I always knew that I wanted to work with children. When my youngest child started nursery, I used to occupy my time by going along to help out a few afternoons during the week. It worked out well for me. It meant that I could do something I enjoy while spending time with my own children. After a period of doing this, I knew it was something I wanted to do full time because I really enjoyed it.



A day in the life of a teaching assistant (continued)

It was an ideal solution for both my career and personal life. It meant I didn't need to arrange childcare and could spend more time with my own children as well as others.

How did you study/train?

I started a bit later than most at the age of 31. My youngest child was in nursery, so it made sense. My child's school gave me the opportunity to complete a placement with them. This meant I could gain experience whilst studying at home and attending college once a week.

It honestly was the perfect set up. My entire family would sit around the dinner table – me doing my coursework and my children doing their homework. It really gave me a sense of purpose and helped me to feel more like a role model to my children. I think seeing their mother doing “homework” too encouraged my children to do their own. Plus, it showed them that learning isn't something that is just for children; you're never too old to learn.

With that in mind, I'm currently studying a new specialist course that looks at working with children to support them with matters concerning issues at home, such as bereavement.

What's the average day like for a teaching assistant?

To be honest, there is not really an “average day”, which is one of the aspects that I love about my job. Typically, my day starts welcoming the children and ensuring they have everything they need for the day. This could be anything from their work, to breakfast or, on a rare occasion, clothes!

During the morning, I spend my time working with groups of SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) children to provide them with extra support in maths and English, helping them to develop in these areas. I do a lot of one-on-one work with individual children, too. This could be listening to reading or providing support in other subject areas. Or I may be working with groups of children on projects or offering additional support.

A day in the life of a teaching assistant (continued)

What's your favourite things about the role?

The short (and perhaps obvious) answer is the children! I am fortunate to be able to spend a lot of time with a variety of different children, meaning I get to know them really well. I am the children's first point of call and role model within my position, which allows me to build really positive and trusting relationships. Plus, I get to go on a lot of fun activity days out!

What's the worst thing about the role?

Dealing with sick! I don't think anything can prepare you or make you immune to having to clean up sick. Not even having your own children. But I've become really good at spotting when a child is about to be sick and grabbing the closest wastepaper basket for them.

Do you think you would ever want to train to become a teacher?

Personally no, although I know many teaching assistants who have gone on to become teachers when the time was right for them. For me, I have a really great work-life balance and I enjoy the unique bonds that I get to build with the students. You don't have as many of these opportunities as a teacher.

If you could give any advice for aspiring teachers/teaching assistants, what would it be?

Don't take criticism to heart! If someone is giving you feedback it's really important that you listen and take it on board, regardless of how long you've been doing your job. Keep in mind that they are only trying to help you get better at your job.

Frequently asked questions

When can I enrol?

Unlike studying at a regular college or institution, Open Study College has no term dates, so you can start studying your course at any time.

What if I need help?

You will receive contact details for your tutor when you enrol, and you are free to contact them for any study-related questions at any time. We also have a student support team dedicated to helping students with all administrative matters.

What is included in my course?

- Dedicated personal tutor support.
- Assignment marking and feedback.
- FREE CV critique service.
- FREE employability guide to help you impress future employers.
- Support from our recruitment partners in finding a job after your studies.
- FREE XO Student Discounts card.
- Comprehensive study guide.
- Open Study College study pack.

What payment options do you offer?

Paying in full is the easiest and most straightforward way to pay for your course. However, we realise that sometimes you may need a little help, which is why at Open Study College we partner with etika to offer our students the option of spreading the cost of their studies up to 36 months.

If you don't feel that either of these options are suitable, please don't worry, we have other options available and our student advisers will work with you to find the best plan.

Frequently asked questions

How does tutor support work when studying via distance learning?

When you enrol on your chosen course, you will receive your personal tutor details. Your tutor will be there to support you, answer any questions and provide guidance on your course through email. If you have a question, just email your tutor and they will get back to you with help and support through email. Your tutor will mark and give you feedback on your assignments, letting you know how you can improve. Once you are ready to start your course, be sure to get in touch with your tutor and introduce yourself.

What is CACHE alumni?

If you enrol on a CACHE qualification, you will receive access to the CACHE Alumni membership for two years. CACHE Alumni is a Professional Membership Network for those who work in the CACHE industries, providing valuable resources and advice for professional studying towards/with a CACHE qualification.



**Thank you for your interest in studying with
Open Study College.**

If you want to know more about our childcare and education courses, go to www.openstudycollege.com or speak to a course adviser on 0330 311 4092.

 **Open Study College**