



Master of Arts Leadership in Early Years Education and Care

Award	NFQ Level 9
Location	Carlow/Wicklow
Duration	2 YEARS - Part-time

What is the programme about?

This is an innovative Level 9 postgraduate degree programme, which aims to enable graduates to critically analyse and contribute to theoretical, research and practice developments in the leadership of the early years in Ireland and beyond. It is responding directly to the increasing demands of the early year's sector for graduates with the knowledge, practices and values, particularly in relation to leading innovation, practicing leadership and having the skills to conduct research in the area.

What will I be able to do when I finish this programme?

Graduates of this programme will be able to:

- Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the underlying theories and key concepts with a focus on leadership and critical assessment skills within an Irish and International context;
- Analyse the current theories, concepts, challenges and research areas with an ability to solve

complex problems through a variety of reflective and participatory work;

- Exhibit critical awareness of contemporary issues and challenges relating to the role and effect of early years education on the child, the family and society;
- Apply the theory and practice of leadership roles in supporting quality;
- Engage in scholarly debate at an academic, policy and practice based level on a range of early year's education and leadership issues;
- Develop, maintain and build on professional relationships fostered throughout the programme with practical skills and tools to reflect and critically self-evaluate;
- Gather, assimilate, synthesise and analyse information on a variety of levels;
- Critically reflect on how leadership practice in early year's education connects to and interacts with wider social issues in Ireland and beyond.



CONTACT

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What subjects will I study?

Modules

Contemporary Issues in Early Years Policy, Theory and Practice
Leading Quality in Early Years Education & Care
Leadership, Strategy & Governance
Transformative Children's Rights Education
Educational Psychology
Early Years Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Research Methods & Dissertation

What are the entry requirements?

Entry requirements are a Level 8 degree, with a minimum of Second Class Honours, Grade 2 or equivalent in one of the following areas:

- Early Childhood Education & Care/ Studies
- Montessori Education
- Education (Primary)
- Speech and Language Therapy
- or other relevant/equivalent Level 8 awards.

Candidates with significant relevant work experience (as determined by Institute of Technology Carlow's Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) policy), in addition to an honours primary degree in another discipline area may also be considered for entry. Applicants must be able to clearly demonstrate and show evidence of their experience working within the sector. Applicants applying for entry via routes other than those listed above will be considered on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with Institute of Technology Carlow's Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) policy.

Please note that all RPL applicants will be subject to interview.



Graduates of the programme may progress to a PhD programme of study in the discipline areas, in Ireland or abroad. Graduates of the programme may also be eligible to progress to a professional doctorate in the field of Leadership in Early Years Education and Care.

This is an ideal postgraduate programme for students or current practitioners within the early childhood education sector who are interested in becoming administrators, directors or managers of early childhood education and care settings. It is also suitable for those interested in advisory, mentoring and inspection roles within the sector.

Exit award

A Postgraduate Diploma in Leadership in Early Years Education & Care is an embedded exit award (60 credits).



CARLOW-KILKENNY TRAINING
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Kilkenny County Childcare Committee



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