

## **What is Childcare?**

The childcare industry has boomed in recent years as more and more parents want to return to work and continue with their careers. There is a demand for high quality professionals to take care of pre-school children both in the child's own home as a 'nanny' and within nursery schools as nursery assistants or teachers.

## **What qualities will I need?**

You will need to like children and enjoy looking after them. You will need to become responsible and capable of taking charge of small children and responding to their needs. You will need to develop skills and strategies to entertain children and support their development but you will also have to gain some specialist knowledge. The course will be a mixture of practical and theory work.

## **What will I need to wear?**

Parents will want to look upon you as a responsible professional and for these as well as health and safety reasons you will be required to wear a uniform.

## **What range of courses are available?**

Through the TVC there is a wide range of Childcare courses appropriate to your achievements and needs. These include:

Entry Level courses for those with few GCSE passes and need to develop basic skills.

**Level 1** courses qualify you to do a basic job but may lead to an apprenticeship

**Level 2** courses qualify you to do a skilled job once you have had a little more experience. You will need to have completed Level 1 or impress at interview to be accepted on to this level course.

**Level 3** courses will qualify you to do a highly skilled or supervisory job once you have had sufficient experience. You will need to have completed a Level 2 course or have good GCSEs to be accepted onto a Level 3 course.

## **What opportunities will this course open for me?**

Most successful Childcare students will progress on to an apprenticeship or work with a nursery that will offer further training. Those who have completed Level 3 may well progress to Higher Education and gain a teaching qualification or to a job with a nursery that offers management-training opportunities.