The early years of a child’s educational development are a crucial formative period. When guided by an inspirational teacher, a young child will develop a lifelong love of and thirst for learning. Many primary teachers speak of the pride they feel as they watch their former students grow into happy, responsible and successful adults. In many ways, primary teachers are at the forefront of the creation of an educated and civil society.

Primary teachers teach children from Kindergarten to Year 6, in ages ranging from five to 12 years, in the following key learning areas:

• English
• mathematics
• science and technology
• human society and its environment
• creative and practical arts
• personal development, health and physical education.

If you have appropriate training, skills and experience in a language other than English, you may gain recognition as a primary teacher with a specialisation in that language.

As a primary teacher, you will also be encouraged to use your special interests and talents to contribute to a wide range of school activities.

Getting there

If you want to become a primary teacher you must attain a Higher School Certificate (including a minimum band 4 in both mathematics and English*) and complete a primary teacher education program through a recognised higher education institution.

* If you have not completed the equivalent of two units of English and mathematics at HSC level, your relevant higher education institution must certify that you have achieved an equivalent standard as part of your study.

Degree options

• an undergraduate degree (fulfilling certain requirements**), and a graduate entry teacher education program such as a Graduate Diploma of Education (Primary), or a Master of Teaching (Primary); or,
• an integrated undergraduate program such as a four-year Bachelor of Education (Primary) which includes both subject content studies and teacher education; or,
• an undergraduate double degree program such as a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching (Primary).

** The bachelor degree must contain sufficient studies related to one or more of the primary key learning areas. All primary teachers are encouraged to study English, mathematics and science and technology.

Further information about the requirements to become a teacher in NSW, including approved initial teacher education programs, can be found on the NSW Institute of Teachers website at www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au.