Qualification Purpose Statement

Qualification title
NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in an Introduction to Early Years Education and Care [601/2536/6]

What does this qualification cover?
This qualification prepares you to work with children from birth and five years, and includes knowledge of working with children up to seven years.

The following are mandatory units:

- Support physical care routines for children
- An introduction to the role of the early years practitioner
- Understand how to work in partnership
- Understand legislation relating to the safeguarding, protection and welfare of children
- Use legislation relating to the health and safety of children
- Use legislation relating to equality, diversity and inclusive practice
- Understand how to plan to meet the needs of the developing child
- Supporting children’s play
- Support children's play in early years
- Support the needs of the child in preparing for school
- Supporting children's development
- Use observation, assessment and planning
- Support children’s positive behaviour
- Engage in professional development.

The qualification also includes four optional units:

- Healthy lifestyles for children through the provision of food and nutrition
- Healthy lifestyles for children through exercise
- Supporting children with additional needs
- Supporting creative play.

Completion of this qualification is achieved through a combination of classroom-based learning and experience in the workplace.

All the units within this qualification are vocationally based, directly helping you gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required to work to work with children between birth and 5 years, with knowledge of children up to 7 years.
There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification but you will need to be at least 16 years of age.

This qualification will take approximately 12 months to complete.

What knowledge and skills will this qualification give you?
Completion of this qualification will prepare you to work with children from birth to five years, providing the knowledge and skills required to work under supervision in a variety of early years settings, for example:

- being able to communicate to meet individuals’ needs and preferences.
- understanding working relationships in early years
- understanding approaches to planning when working with children from birth to 7 years
- being able to support positive behaviour
- being able to reflect on own role in relation to managing children’s behaviour in own setting.

Is this qualification right for you?
This qualification is ideal if you are looking to work with children between birth and five years, and gain knowledge of working with children up to seven years. You do not need to have previous experience or qualifications in working with children to undertake this qualification.

You will need to be working, volunteering or on practical placement as you will need to show competence in both knowledge and skills. We recommend you complete 250 placement hours whilst undertaking this qualification.

Why should you take this particular qualification?
This qualification is the only qualification at this level that is specifically aimed at those who wish to enter the workforce in a supervised role in children’s settings and/or work towards Early Years Educator status.

There are other childcare related Certificates at level 2 e.g. the Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People’s Workforce and the Level 2 Certificate in Introducing Caring for Children and Young People; however these are aimed at learners who have prior experience in childcare or, in the case of the Certificate for the Children and Young People’s Workforce, already have an understanding or some experience of working with children and are looking to either progress to further learning or work with children in specialised settings such as children’s social care settings.
Therefore if you are aiming to work towards achieving Early Years Educator status or working in general childcare settings with children aged 0-5, this Certificate is the most appropriate for you.

This qualification is not available as part of an Apprenticeship Framework.

**What could this qualification lead to?**
This qualification provides you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to enter the workforce, working under supervision within early years settings, in a variety of roles such as:

- nursery assistant
- classroom assistant
- pre-school assistant.

If you are looking to continue studying after completion of this qualification, the NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in an Introduction to Early Years Education and Care provides you with the knowledge and skills to work with children from birth and five years, and knowledge of working with children up to seven years to progress to the:

- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator)
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award and Certificate in Specialist Teaching and Learning in Schools
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools

**Who supports this qualification?**
The NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in an Introduction to Early Years Education and Care is supported by the following employers:

- Barnardos
- Children 1st at Breedon House Nurseries
- Elite Childcare Training
- Kids Allowed Academy
- Little Tinklers
- St Francis School
- Stone Eden Nursery
- North Tynies Childcare Ltd