

Qualification Facts and FAQs

In order to assist learners and Centres with choosing between two of our Level 2 Certificates found within our early years suite, we have highlighted the main differences of each qualification below.

Qualification Titles

NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Certificate in Working with Children in Early Years and Primary Settings (603/3292/X)

NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in an Introduction to Early Years Education and Care (601/2536/6)

Are any of these qualifications replacing the other?

No, these qualifications provide two different pathways for the learner.

The Level 2 Certificate in an Introduction to Early Years Education and Care is ideal for learners looking to work with children between birth and five years of age, and gain knowledge of working with children up to seven years.

The Level 2 Technical Certificate in Working with Children in Early Years and Primary Settings has been designed to meet the Department for Education's requirements for a Technical Certificate and is included in the 2020 16-19 Performance Tables. It will support post-16 learners who wish to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills when caring for and supporting the learning and development of children aged 0–11 years 11 months.

The Level 2 Technical Certificate in Working with Children in Early Years and Primary Settings is also suitable for learners wishing to take it as part of a full study programme alongside GCSE English and mathematics and for those learners who wish to progress to Level 3 qualifications or to the workforce.

Both qualifications support progression to any of the following sectors:

- early years educator
- supporting teaching and learning
- children and young people qualifications.

Both qualifications require learners to experience time in a real work environment. The Level 2 Technical Certificate in Working with Children in Early Years and Primary Settings requires learners to spend some time with children in their early years as well as some time in primary school settings. Unlike the Level 2 Certificate in an Introduction to Early Years Education and Care, placement requirements do not make up each unit. Instead, a professional skills record monitors development and offers tasks for completion.

In order to satisfy DfE requirements around external and synoptic assessment the Level 2 Technical Certificate in working with children in Early Years and Primary settings will also have an externally assessed short answer examination.

However the Level 2 Technical Certificate in Working with Children in Early Years and Primary Settings includes significant transferable knowledge for learners also interested in progressing to the health and social care sector.

Summary of both qualifications

Title	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in an Introduction to Early Years Education and Care (601/2536/6)			
Aim	The aim of this qualification is to prepare learners to work with children between birth and five years with knowledge of children up to seven years or to progress onto the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator) (QRN: 601/2147/6) or the NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (QRN: 601/2629/2).			
Guided learning hours	Min	269	Max	282
Credit value	33	Minimum credit at / above Level		33
Minimum age of learner	16			
Age ranges covered by the qualification	This qualification prepares learners to work with children between birth and five years with knowledge of children up to seven years.			
Real work environment (RWE) requirement / recommendation	250 recommended placement hours.			
Rules of Combination	Learners must achieve a total of 33 credits (29 credits from mandatory group A plus 4 credits from optional group B).			
Recommended assessment methods	All units will be internally assessed using a range of methods. This could include direct observation within the workplace, a portfolio of evidence, written assignments or a task set by us*.			
Additional assessment requirements	Some learning outcomes within this qualification will require assessment in a Real Work Environment.			
Grading system	Pass / refer			
How long will it take to complete?	1 year			
Entry requirements / recommendations	Learners must be aged 16 or over.			

Title	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Certificate in Working with Children in Early Years and Primary Settings (603/3292/X)
Aim	This qualification provides learners with the knowledge and understanding essential to the early years and childcare sector, and supports progression to further learning or the workplace. This qualification has been approved for inclusion in the Department for Education's 2020 Key Stage 5 Performance Tables in the Technical Certificate category.
Total Qualification Time (hours)	366
Guided Learning (hours)	240
Minimum age of learner	16
Age ranges covered by the qualification	This qualification will provide learners with the knowledge and skills needed to care for and educate children aged 0–11 years 11 months.
Real work environment (RWE) requirement/ recommendation	This qualification has a minimum requirement of 120 work placement hours. However, we recommend learners undertake at least 200 hours of work placement.
Rules of combination	To gain this qualification, learners must achieve a minimum of a Pass grade in the external assessment, the six internal assessments and complete the Professional Skills Record.
Progression including job roles (where applicable)	<p>This qualification has been designed to allow progression to Level 3 qualifications within our early years, children and young people, supporting teaching and learning, and health and social care suites.</p> <p>Learners can also progress in the workplace in a variety of job roles, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nursery assistant • classroom assistant • pre-school assistant.
Recommended assessment methods	All units for this qualification will be internally assessed using a portfolio of evidence. In addition, learners will be required to achieve a pass grade for a synoptic short-answer paper, which will be externally set and externally marked. Learners will also be required to complete a Professional Skills Record in both an early years and a primary school setting.
Additional assessment requirements	All units must be assessed in line with the NCFE CACHE assessment principles.

Grading system	Pass/Merit/Distinction
How long will it take to complete?	The Technical Certificate can usually be completed in one year.
Entry requirements/recommendations	Learners must be at least 16 years old. We do not set any other entry requirements but Centres may have their own guidelines.