

which qualification level?

There are different levels of qualification suitable for every stage of your career:

- **FOUNDATION LEVEL**
For people with little or no experience of working with children.
- **LEVEL TWO**
For those who are working under supervision.
- **LEVEL THREE**
For those who work on their own initiative, planning and organising their own work and supervising others.
- **LEVEL FOUR**
For experienced practitioners who carry out complex and non-routine tasks such as a manager.
- **LEVEL FIVE (FOUNDATION DEGREE)**
For those working as senior managers and development officers.
- **LEVEL SIX AND ABOVE**
For those working as senior managers and development officers at strategic level, perhaps managing several varied teams and significant resources.

frequently asked questions

- Q What is the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) currently developing?**
A The work of CWDC's Early Years team is to ensure that the early years workforce has access to good quality training, and believes that all staff should hold full and relevant qualifications at level three as a minimum. Also, that practice in the workplace should be led by graduates who have achieved Early Years Professional Status (EYPS).
- Q What do Early Years Professionals (EYPs) do?**
A EYPs are key to raising the quality of early years provision. They are change agents for improving practice within settings. They will lead practice across the Early Years Foundation Stage, in a range of settings, modelling the skills and behaviours that promote good outcomes for children as well as supporting and mentoring other practitioners.
- Q What are foundation degrees?**
A Foundation degrees are an intermediate level, work-related higher education qualification. They are offered by universities in partnership with higher education colleges and further education colleges. Flexible study methods make them available to people already in work, unemployed people, or those wanting to embark on a career change. On successful completion, foundation degree graduates may choose to progress to further professional qualifications or to an honours degree.
- Q What is the Integrated Qualifications Framework (IQF)?**
A The IQF has been developed for anyone who currently works with - or would like to work with - children, young people and their families. It will provide enhanced continuity and quality of qualifications, training and skills across all occupational groups in the children and young people's workforce. Employers, learners and training providers will all benefit from a clear, consistent and coherent qualifications framework.
- Q How can I transfer my skills between jobs that require similar skills but different qualifications?**
A Transitional qualifications from early years to playwork and vice versa have already been developed.

If you need a version of this leaflet in any other format, including a language other than English, please telephone 0161 912 1053, minicom 0161 912 2101 user id 1053.

for further information please do not hesitate to contact:

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a quick guide

to play and childcare qualifications



Are you looking to gain a nationally recognised qualification in play and childcare? The aim of this pamphlet is to provide a quick source of reference for the main qualifications available to the Trafford childcare workforce and where they can be accessed.

Play and childcare can be one of the most rewarding professions in the world; practitioners can have a huge impact on the lives of children and their families. Children deserve a highly skilled workforce to nurture their needs, and the workforce deserves to have access to a wide range of qualifications which help their personal and professional development.

Children have always been a high priority for the Government. It firmly believes that if we invest in children from a very early age, by providing services that will enable individuals to flourish, society will almost certainly reap the benefits later.

Over the past decade, the Play and Childcare workforce has evolved rapidly. This is in response to Government plans to support a parent's choice to work by developing good quality, accessible childcare provision, particularly in areas of most need.

Surestart have worked closely within communities to develop childcare provision, and good quality childcare needs a highly skilled workforce. A major commitment to providing a wide range of training and development opportunities has been made, ensuring practitioners have access to the skills and knowledge required to care for children.

why there has never been a better time to join the play and childcare profession

- Up to 75% of course fees are paid through government funding, depending on your individual circumstances or type of programme, it could be completely free.
- There are an increasing number of accessible qualifications becoming available to the workforce in preparation for the introduction of the new Integrated Qualifications Framework (IQF) in 2010.

More recently, the Government has placed an even stronger emphasis on the importance of raising levels of qualifications among all practitioners in the workforce. A significant development is the Early Years Professional (EYP), responsible for the implementation of the new statutory framework Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It is expected that there will be an EYP in every full day care setting by 2015. That person will be qualified to a level 5/6 and have gained Early Years Practitioners Status (EYPS).

However, not everyone will be expected or want to gain a Level 6 qualification. We must acknowledge and value the existing workforce as it evolves, while at the same

time recognising the benefits of up-skilling the workforce. Not only will this improve on the quality of care and learning for individual children and families, but also encourage practitioners to reach their full potential.

Achieving a nationally recognised qualification should never be taken lightly. It involves lots of hard work and practitioners will need to be very determined. For many, the coursework will have to fit in around their busy family lives, and often hectic work schedules, but upon completion, the sense of achievement is something of which practitioners can be very proud.

Please see overleaf for a list of just some qualifications you can gain when working as a childminder, an early years practitioner, or playworker.



TRAFFORD COUNCIL

2009 Play and Early Years Qualifications

	Bev Amison 0871 222 5182	Edge Hill 01695 575 171	Grumpy 0161 737 1644	Lynn Moss Associates 01457 762824	Manchester College 0800 068 8585	Manchester Metropolitan University 0800 915 0668	National Extension College 0800 389 2839	NCMA 0800 169 4486	Online Learning 0161 969 1010	Open University 0845 300 6090	Stockport College 0845 230 3102	Trafford College 0161 886 7070
LEVEL 1												
CACHE Foundation Award Caring for Children					✓						✓	
Introduction to Working with Young Children										✓		
Supporting Children's Learning in the Early Years										✓		
The Early Years - Developing Practice										✓		
Understanding Children										✓		
LEVEL 2												
CACHE Diploma DCE Level 2 Childcare and Education			✓		✓							✓
NVQ LEVEL 2 Playwork	✓		✓		✓							✓
NVQ Level 2 Children's Care Learning and Development	✓		✓		✓ + BTEC			Certificate in Playwork		✓	✓	✓ + Apprenticeships
Certificate in Pre School Practice			✓					Certificate in CCLD			✓	
Level 2 Diploma Children's Care								✓			✓	
Child Development								✓				
Working with Children & Families										✓		
Take 5 4 Play	✓			✓								
LEVEL 3												
CACHE Award Level 3 Child Care and Education					✓ + BTEC							
CACHE Diploma Level 3 Home Based Care					✓			✓ All Units	✓ All Units		✓	✓ Introduction
Diploma in Pre School Practice								✓			✓	
NVQ Level 3 Children's Care Learning and Development	✓ +Transitional Award for Playwork				✓			Certificate in CCLD	✓	✓ +Transitional Award for Playwork	✓	✓
Early Years Foundation Stage Certificate	✓							Available from Spring 09		✓		✓
NVQ Level 3 Playwork	✓ +Transitional Award for CCLD							Diploma in Playwork			✓	✓
Level 3 Diploma Children's Care								✓				
Research with Children & Young People										✓		
Working Together For Children										✓		
LEVEL 4												
NVQ Level 4 Children's Care Learning and Development	✓										✓	✓
LEVEL 5												
Foundation Degree in Early Years		✓ +Pathways to EYP status				✓ +Pathways to EYP status				✓ +Pathways to EYP status	✓	✓
Foundation Degree Working with Families and Communities		✓										
Foundation Degree Playwork		✓									✓	
Foundation in Early years Leadership		✓										
Foundation Degree Early Years and Children		✓										
LEVEL 6												
BA Hons in Early Childhood Studies		✓ +Pathways to EYP status				✓ +Pathways to EYP status				✓		
SUPERVISORY MANAGEMENT												
NVQ Team Leading Level 2	✓								✓			✓
NVQ Management Level 3	✓								✓			✓
NVQ Management Level 4	✓											✓
A Units									✓			✓