

Frequently asked questions

Qualification:

Level 3 Award in Early Years and Child Care for Playworkers (3177-10)

Level 3 Award in Playwork for Early Years and Child Care workers (6798-10)

Section 1

Information for learners

Who are these qualifications for?

Award in Early Years and Child Care for playworkers

This qualification is for practitioners who already hold a relevant level 3 qualification in Playwork and who have a background in playwork but work or want to work in a setting where the main purpose is children's care, learning and development. This level 3 award is designed to support your transition from one sector to the other.

Award in Playwork for Early Years Child Care workers

This qualification is for practitioners who already hold a relevant level 3 qualification in early years and child care and who have a background in children's care, learning and development but work or want to work in a playwork setting. This level 3 award is designed to support your transition from one sector to the other.

Is it possible for childminders to undertake one of these qualifications?

Yes if the childminder has a level 3 qualification in either Children's Care, Learning and Development or Playwork it is possible.

Are there any entry requirements?

Award in Early Years and Child Care for playworkers

You must hold a relevant level 3 qualification in Playwork, such as the City & Guilds Level 3 NVQ in Playwork (6978-03) before undertaking this qualification. You must also have access to a setting whose main purpose is children's care, learning and development.

Award in Playwork for Early Years Child Care workers

You must hold a relevant level 3 qualification in Children's Care, Learning and Development or Early Years, such as the City & Guilds Level 3 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development (3171) before undertaking this qualification. Candidates must also have access to a setting whose main purpose is Playwork.

Do I have to undertake a work placement to qualify?

No, this is not mandatory, but you have to be prepared to attend and observe in the destination setting and then show how you would adjust your work practice as a result. We strongly recommend that you undertake a 30 hour work placement in addition to the guided study hours. Ideas of work placements include:

- A day a week in the destination setting for six weeks
- Volunteering in an out of school/holiday playscheme

How many units do I need to do in order to complete the qualification?

Both qualifications are made up of two core units. In order to complete either qualification, you must complete one assignment for each unit.

Units for the Award in Early Years and Child Care for playworkers

Unit 101 Theory and practice in promoting children's care, learning and development

Unit 102 Aspects of children's care, learning and development

Units for the Award in Playwork for Early Years Child Care workers

Unit 101 The theory and practice of children's and young people's play

Unit 102 Aspects of Playwork Practice

How long will it take me to complete and will I have to attend every session?

Both qualifications are made up of two units. It is usually recommended that you attend 80% of the teaching time allocated by the centre for each unit. Usually the Centre will keep a record of your attendance and if they feel you have not attended sufficient teaching time you may be asked to take additional study before you are allowed to submit the assignment.

Do these qualifications replace an existing qualification?

No, these are new qualifications.

Where can I find more information on this and other related qualifications?

Further information on related qualifications and other supporting is available from our website at www.cityandguilds.com in our **Children and Young People** pages in the learners sections.

Section 2

Information for centres

Award in Early Years and Child Care for playworkers

This qualification is one of two 'transitional' qualifications which have been developed in order to support workers to move from one sector to another. This qualification meets the needs of candidates who work or want to work in settings whose main purpose is children's care, learning and development and who already hold a relevant Level 3 qualification in Playwork.

Award in Playwork for Early Years Child Care workers

This qualification is one of two 'transitional' qualifications which have been developed in order to support workers to move from one sector to another. This qualification meets the needs of candidates who work or want to work in settings whose main purpose is Playwork and who already hold a relevant Level 3 qualification in children's care, learning and development. This qualification is for practitioners who hold a level 3 qualification in Children's Care, Learning and Development but would like to work in a playwork setting.

Are the qualifications recognised by Ofsted?

Yes.

How do we gain approval to offer these qualifications?

You can gain approval to offer these qualifications in two ways, either via our standard Qualification approval route or via fast track approval.

Qualification approval

You will need to apply for full qualification approval if you are not already approved to offer any of the following qualifications:

- Level 3 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development (3171-03/93)
- Level 3 SVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development (3174-03/93)
- Level 3 Certificate in Children's Care, Learning and Development (3177- 03/93)
- Level 3 NVQ in Playwork (4832 and/or 4834)

A qualification approval form can be obtained from your regional or national office or can be downloaded from our website. Once the form is completed please return it your City & Guilds regional office.

Fast track approval

To apply for fast track approval you must already be approved to run some or all of the above qualifications. Fast track approval is achieved by completing the Fast-track approval form which is available from the **Children and Young People pages** on our website www.cityandguilds.com

What are the costs for registering and/or requesting certificates for learners?

The registration cost for both qualifications is £41.60. This is an all-in one fee which includes the cost of the certificate.

Will there be any financial support for undertaking the qualifications?

You will need to enquire with your local authority children's services. However here are the QCA reference numbers to help you, should funding be available.

Qualification number	QCA reference number	Last registration	Last certification
3177-10	100/6168/X	31/10/2007	31/10/2010
6978-10	100/6169/1	31/10/2007	31/10/2010

Are there any guided learning hours for these qualifications?

Yes. The recommended guided learning hours for both qualifications are 60 hours.

Is a work placement recommended?

Yes. We strongly recommend that learners undertake a 30 hour work placement in addition to the guided study hours. Ideas of work placements include:

- A day a week in the destination setting for six weeks
- Volunteering in an out of school/holiday playscheme

What documentation is available with these qualifications?

A qualification book for each qualification is available. These can be accessed from our website in our **Children and Young People Services** pages within the **Centres/Training Providers** section.

Where else can I find more information on these qualifications?

Further information on related qualifications and other supporting is available from our website at www.cityandguilds.com in our **Children and Young People** pages in the learners sections.

Section 3

Additional clarification and guidance

Is there any remission of tuition for experience?

If you have a considerable amount of experience or previous training you should discuss possible remission of tuition. A remission may be agreed but you will still have to complete all the assessments.

I have got years of experience working with children but no qualifications. Would I be allowed to undertake these qualifications?

No, these qualifications are only for practitioners who already hold a recognised level 3 qualification from the relevant qualifications framework in the 4 Nations. However, the Level 3 Certificate in Work with Children (APEL) Award might be an alternative solution.

It is possible to undertake this course by distance learning?

At the moment there is not a distance learning option, but there may well be some room for negotiation with your local training provider so that some of the learning is undertaken in your own time.

What is reflective practice?

This is a process where you reflect on your own performance at work. It is a kind of self-examination where you think about what you are doing at the moment and what you would like to be doing in the future. Engaging in the process of reflection is usually about admitting that your practice can be improved in some way. It is:

- Being honest with yourself
- Learning from experience
- Becoming more aware
- Improving on what you are doing.

For these qualifications you will be required to write a reflective account that shows how you have thought about the key aspects of playwork and CCLD practice and can identify what you will need to do to meet the standards. For example, in playwork you will learn about appropriate intervention styles in the play process. These will then be considered, observed and practised. A reflective account might identify the knowledge gained, observation of others in practice, and the way in which you have adapted your existing practice to take account of new processes and ideas.

The Children's Care Learning and Development Level 3 qualification has an age range of 0-16. Why do I need to do a playwork qualification as well?

Although this qualification is for people who work with children 0-16 it is for workers in settings where the **main** purpose is to support children's care, learning and development in partnership with families. Playwork qualifications are for people who work in settings where the main purpose is the provision for children in their out of school, leisure and recreation time to provide opportunities for freely chosen, self directed play.

The qualifications have been especially written to cover the critical differences between the Children's Care, Learning and Development qualifications and the Playwork qualifications.