

Subject Guide

Your guide to next generation BTECs for level 3 learners

CHILDREN'S PLAY, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

For first teaching September 2014

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Award in Children's Play, Learning and Development (VRQ)

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Award in Children's Play, Learning and Development (VRQ)

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development (VRQ)

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development
(Early Years Educator) (VRQ)

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development
(Early Years Educator) (VRQ)

Welcome

Welcome to your sector guide for the new BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Children's Play, Learning and Development (first teaching September 2014 in England).



This document gives you a background to the new qualifications and provides an overview of the main features and support that is available, in order to help you prepare for the forthcoming academic year (2014/5). Visit www.btec.co.uk/cpld2014 to sign up for Subject Advisor updates, so you can stay up-to-date with important news in the sector relating to our qualifications.

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Introducing the new qualifications

Following on from the Nutbrown Review (2012) into all early years qualifications and education, and the Government response (More Great Childcare, 2013), we have revised our BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Children's Play, Learning and Development in line with the new Early Years Educator (EYE) criteria, published by the National College of Teaching and Leadership (NCTL).

The main impact of the More Great Childcare report on early years qualifications, is that all centres in England delivering early years qualifications at Level 3 will need to offer a new qualification from 1st September 2014. This guide gives you an overview of the new BTEC qualifications.

It was very important to us at Pearson that the new qualifications reflected the new EYE criteria and the key areas valued by the sector, including an emphasis on child development and play. We have listened to feedback from you on our predecessor qualifications and incorporated this into the design of the new qualifications, for example by:

- retaining the different curriculum sizes to meet different learners' progression needs
- designing the Certificate and Diploma sizes to confer EYE status on learners, which have been approved by the NCTL
- having an appropriate number and selection of optional units to meet learners' different interests and progression needs, so you can tailor programmes for individual learners and cohorts
- having a placement log in the form of a Practical Evidence Portfolio (PEP) in the larger sizes of the qualification, to add structure to the work placement and to ensure learners develop the practical skills needed to work with children, linking this back to the units as a form of synoptic assessment.

We hope you like the new qualifications - do get in touch with one of the Pearson team to let us know what you think, we welcome your feedback. We wish you well with planning your early years provision for the next academic year.

Overview of key features and benefits

The new BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Children's Play, Learning and Development has been developed in consultation with employers, higher education institutions and professional bodies to ensure they offer engaging and fit for purpose content. The qualification is available in a range of curriculum sizes to meet the different progression needs of learners.

Each qualification provides:

- a holistic programme, with units featuring practical criteria
- content that is important to the sector, including a focus on play and child development
- an externally assessed unit on child development to ensure learners have a sound understanding of development, including milestones and child development theory
- a wide range of free support for the qualifications.

In addition:

- The National Certificate and Diploma sizes have been approved by the NCTL to confer Early Years Educator status on learners.
- The four largest sizes have a Practical Evidence Portfolio (PEP), to provide evidence and structure to the work placement.
- The Diploma offers a wide range of interesting optional units to cater for learners' different interests and progression needs.

This new qualification develops learners' understanding and skills for working with children aged 0-5, but also provides them with the understanding and experience of working with those aged 5-7, to ensure those who achieve the National Certificate/ Diploma (Early Years Educator size) can help prepare children for school and to aid learners' progression to primary teaching.

Qualification structure

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Award in Children’s Play, Learning and Development

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Award in Children’s Play, Learning and Development consists of two core units that provide for a combined total of 180 guided learning hours (GLH) for the completed qualification. This qualification does not confer occupational competency on learners. It has one unit that your centre assesses (internal) and an externally assessed unit that Pearson sets and marks (external).

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Award in Children’s Play, Learning and Development			
Unit	Core units	Assessment method	GLH
1	Child Development *	External	120
2	Play and Learning	Internal	60

**Indicates that unit assessment is externally set and marked.*

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Award in Children’s Play, Learning and Development

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Award in Children’s Play, Learning and Development consists of five core units, and a choice from four optional specialist units that provide for a combined total of 360 guided learning hours (GLH) for the completed qualification. This qualification does not confer occupational competency on learners. It has units that your centre assesses (internal) and an externally assessed unit that Pearson sets and marks (external).

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Award in Children’s Play, Learning and Development			
Unit	Core units	Assessment method	GLH
1	Child Development *	External	120
2	Play and Learning	Internal	60
4	Health and Safety in Early Years Settings	Internal	30
8	Safeguarding in Early Years	Internal	30
9	Observation, Assessment and Planning	Internal	60
Optional specialist units (learners take one unit)			
3	Meeting Children’s Physical Development, Physical Care and Health Needs	Internal	60
6	Supporting Children’s Speech, Communication and Language	Internal	60
7	Supporting Children’s Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Internal	60
10	Supporting Children’s Literacy and Numeracy Development	Internal	60

**Indicates that unit assessment is externally set and marked.*

As part of this qualification, learners must undertake 50 hours of work experience (see Section 3 of the specification).

Qualification structure

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Certificate in Children’s Play, Learning and Development

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Certificate in Children’s Play, Learning and Development consists of six core units, and a choice from five optional specialist units that provide for a combined total of 540 guided learning hours (GLH) for the completed qualification. This qualification does not confer occupational competency on learners. It has units that your centre assesses (internal). One of these units has a Pearson-set assignment. There is also an externally assessed unit that Pearson sets and marks (external).

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Subsidiary Certificate in Children’s Play, Learning and Development			
Unit	Core units	Assessment method	GLH
1	Child Development *	External	120
2	Play and Learning	Internal	60
4	Health and Safety in Early Years Settings	Internal	30
8	Safeguarding in Early Years	Internal	30
9	Observation, Assessment and Planning	Internal	60
5	Working with Parents and Others in Early Years	Internal	60
Optional specialist units (learners take three units)			
3	Meeting Children’s Physical Development, Physical Care and Health Needs	Internal	60
6	Supporting Children’s Speech, Communication and Language	Internal	60
7	Supporting Children’s Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Internal	60
10	Supporting Children’s Literacy and Numeracy Development	Internal	60
12	Implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage	Internal	60

**Indicates that unit assessment is externally set and marked.*

As part of the qualification, learners must undertake 400 hours of work experience (see Section 3 of the specification).

Qualification structure

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator)

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator) consists of twelve core units that provide for a combined total of 720 guided learning hours (GLH) for the completed qualification. This qualification will confer occupational competency on learners. It has units that your centre assesses (internal). One of the units has Pearson-set assignments. There is also an externally assessed unit that Pearson sets and marks (external).

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator)			
Unit	Core units	Assessment method	GLH
1	Child Development *	External	120
2	Play and Learning	Internal	60
3	Meeting Children’s Physical Development, Physical Care and Health Needs	Internal	60
4	Health and Safety in Early Years Settings	Internal	30
5	Working with Parents and Others in Early Years	Internal	60
6	Supporting Children’s Speech, Communication and Language	Internal	60
7	Supporting Children’s Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Internal	60
8	Safeguarding in Early Years	Internal	30
9	Observation, Assessment and Planning	Internal	60
10	Supporting Children’s Literacy and Numeracy Development	Internal	60
11	Reflective Practice **	Pearson-set assignment	60
12	The Early Years Foundation Stage	Internal	60

*Indicates that unit assessment is externally set and marked

**Indicates that unit has Pearson-set assignment

As part of the qualification, learners must undertake 750 hours of work experience (see Section 3 of the specification).

Qualification structure

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator)

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator) consists of thirteen core units and a choice from seventeen optional specialist units that provide for a combined total of 1080 guided learning hours (GLH) for the completed qualification. This qualification will confer occupational competency on learners. It has units that your centre assesses (internal). Two of these units have Pearson-set assignments. There is also an externally assessed unit that Pearson sets and marks (external).

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator)			
Unit	Core units	Assessment method	GLH
1	Child Development *	External	120
2	Play and Learning	Internal	60
3	Meeting Children’s Physical Development, Physical Care and Health Needs	Internal	60
4	Health and Safety in Early Years Settings	Internal	30
5	Working with Parents and Others in Early Years	Internal	60
6	Supporting Children’s Speech, Communication and Language	Internal	60
7	Supporting Children’s Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Internal	60
8	Safeguarding in Early Years	Internal	30
9	Observation, Assessment and Planning	Internal	60
10	Supporting Children’s Literacy and Numeracy Development	Internal	60
11	Reflective Practice **	Pearson-set assignment	60
12	The Early Years Foundation Stage	Internal	60
13	Research Skills **	Pearson-set assignment	60

*Indicates that unit assessment is externally set and marked

**Indicates that unit has Pearson-set assignment

Qualification structure

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator) (continued)

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator)			
Optional specialist units (learners must take units adding up to 300 guided learning hours, to make up 1080 guided learning hours for the qualification overall.)			
Unit	Optional specialist units	Assessment method	GLH
14	Health, Education and Social Services for Children and Their Families	Internal	30
15	Food and Mealtimes in the Early Years	Internal	30
16	Working With Children Under Three Years	Internal	60
17	Working With Children in Home-based Care	Internal	60
18	Managing a Home-based Childcare Business	Internal	30
19	Working With Children With Additional Needs	Internal	60
20	An Introduction to Playwork Principles	Internal	60
21	Supporting Children’s Imaginative Play	Internal	30
22	Cooking Activities With Children	Internal	30
23	Supporting Children’s Creativity	Internal	30
24	Supporting the Development of English For Children With Another Home Language	Internal	60
25	Promoting Children’s Development Outdoors	Internal	60
26	An Introduction to Working in a Montessori Setting	Internal	60
27	An Introduction to Working in a Steiner Waldorf Setting	Internal	60
28	An Introduction to Work as a Community Nursery Nurse	Internal	60
29	Meeting the Needs of Children Who May Have an Autism Spectrum Disorder	Internal	60
30	Career Development in Early Years	Internal	30

As part of the qualification, learners must undertake 750 hours of work experience (see Section 3 of the specification).

Assessment, grading and compensation

External assessment

Unit 1: Child Development is externally assessed, via a written examination paper, which will be marked by Pearson. The paper will be in a case study format, featuring short and extended writing questions.

Assessment windows for the Unit 1 exam are January and June of each academic year. The first assessment window is January 2015.

There are a maximum of two re-sit opportunities after learners’ first sitting.

Pearson-set assignments

Unit 11: Reflective Practice and Unit 13: Research Skills have assignments set by Pearson, which are in the specification. These assignments will remain the same year on year, be marked by the course tutor/assessor and will be sampled during the Standards Verifier (SV) visit.

Internal assessment

With the exception of Units 1, 11 and 13, all other units are internally assessed. Tutors and assessors can devise their own assignments for these units. Alternatively, tutors and assessors can use authorised assignment briefs produced by Pearson, which will be available for a number of the units.

Grading and compensation

There is no compensation on the core units. Learners need to pass the core units and attain a minimum number of points (depending on the qualification size), in order to achieve the overall qualification. This is because employers, higher education institutions and relevant bodies who were involved in the design and development of the qualifications want to ensure that holders of the qualification have the required knowledge, understanding and skills.

Details of how the qualification grade is calculated is available in the specification for the new qualifications.

Work placement requirements

Qualification	Work placement requirements
National Subsidiary Award (180 GLH)	None
National Award (360 GLH)	Learners must undertake a minimum of 50 hours of work placement with any of the following age groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• birth up to 1 year, 11 months in a nursery or in home-based care• 2 up to 4 years, 11 months in nursery, pre-school or home-based care• 5 up to 7 years, 11 months with children who are in a classroom setting. Learners must record their evidence in the Practical Evidence Portfolio (PEP).
National Subsidiary Certificate (540 GLH)	Learners must undertake a minimum of 400 hours of work placement with any of the following age groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• birth up to 1 year, 11 months in a nursery or in home-based care• 2 up to 4 years, 11 months in nursery, pre-school or home-based care• 5 up to 7 years, 11 months with children who are in a classroom setting It is recommended that if learners wish to progress to Early Years Educator qualifications, they must be mindful of the need to experience working with different age ranges and to engage in reflective practice. Learners must record their evidence in the Practical Evidence Portfolio (PEP).
National Certificate (720 GLH) Diploma (1080 GLH) – Early Years Educator	Learners must undertake a minimum of 750 hours in placement, in a minimum of three different placement settings. Learners must spend a minimum of 100 hours in one placement for each of the following age bands: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• birth up to 1 year, 11 months in a nursery or in home-based care• 2 up to 4 years, 11 months in nursery, pre-school or home-based care• 5 up to 7 years, 11 months with children who are in a classroom setting. Up to 150 hours can be undertaken with children with additional needs in an older age group. Learners must complete the Practical Evidence Portfolio (PEP), which details skills that need to be evidenced whilst on placement, and features reflective summaries that need to be completed.

Important information

Entry requirements

Your centre will need to review the profile of qualifications and/or experience held by applicants, considering whether this profile shows an ability to progress to a level 3 qualification. For learners who have recently been in education, the profile is likely to include one of the following:

- a GCSE equivalent to at least four passes at grade C, ideally including a grade C in English GCSE and/or Mathematics GCSE*
- other related level 2 qualifications
- related work experience.

More mature learners may present a more varied profile of achievement that is likely to include experience of paid and/or unpaid employment.

* In light of the importance of educators having good literacy and numeracy skills, it is strongly recommended that learners undertaking the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate or Diploma in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator) who are planning to enter the early years workforce have GCSEs in English and mathematics.

The NCTL are currently reviewing the entry requirements for Early Years Educator qualifications and whether the GCSE English and maths should be a qualification or job entry requirement. Further information will soon be available regarding the outcome of their decision.

UCAS

We are pleased to announce that UCAS points for our new BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (2014 specification) have been confirmed. This information is now available on the **UCAS website**.

The points awarded are in line with those awarded to QCF BTEC Nationals and predecessor BTEC Nationals in Children’s Play, Learning and Development (2012 specification) of equivalent size.

Please refer to the **UCAS website** for the UCAS tariff points table for each qualification size.

Funding

All qualifications sizes in Children’s Play, Learning And Development are eligible for 16-18 funding. Both the National Certificate (720 GLH) and Diploma (1080 GLH) have been approved by the NCTL to confer Early Years Educator status on learners, so these qualifications are also fully funded for eligible 19+ learners.

Key Stage 5 performance measures

DfE have confirmed the following will be included on Key Stage 5:

- Sub Award – Applied Generation
- Certificate – Technical level
- Diploma – Technical level

Support

A wide range of free support and resources will be available for the new qualifications. The table below gives an overview of the support materials and anticipated publication date. These materials will be available on our website www.btec.co.uk/cpld2014.

Resource and description	Anticipated publication date
Draft Specification – contains the units, Pearson-set assignments and details about the assessment of the qualifications.	Available now
Draft Practical Evidence Portfolio (PEP) – a log to evidence the learner’s placement during the course, containing competencies to be evidenced, reflective practice requirements, and supervisors’ reports on learner’s performance. This will be available in Word format once the final version is available for use, so that learners can complete it electronically.	Available now
At a Glance Guide – brief one page summary giving an overview of the different qualifications in the BTEC in Children’s Play Learning and Development suite for 2014.	Available now
Delivery Guide – unit by unit guidance and tips for the delivery of the qualification, with sections on work placement and curriculum suggestions in line with Study Programme requirements.	Available now
Authorised Assignment Briefs – assignments created by Pearson for use with a number of the internally assessed units.	Summer 2014
Sample Assessment and Past Paper Materials – sample examination paper and mark scheme, also past papers with examiners’ reports will become available after each January/June examination.	February 2014 and onwards
Sample Learner Work – sample learner work will be available for the external unit and sample internal units.	Summer 2014
Presentations – PowerPoint presentations will be available on the BTEC website from network and launch/training events.	February 2014
Sample Schemes of Work – outline schemes of work for a number of the key units.	Summer 2014
Study Skills Activities – activity sheets for learners to develop study skills, from time management to presentation skills.	Summer 2014

Online forum

Want to network online with other centres about the new qualifications? Use our online communities forum where you can post questions, start discussions or share materials and good practice with other tutors and assessors. Our Subject Advisor, **Kate Elsmore**, also frequently posts useful updates and tips about good practice and delivery ideas in the ‘resources’ section of the forum.

Visit www.btec.co.uk/ccld to sign up for Kate’s updates, and to visit the childcare community forum.

Other qualification news

New Level 3 work-based learning qualification for early years

Pearson will also be making available a work-based learning to become Early Years Educators. This NCTL and Ofqual approved qualification will be available for first teaching September 2014 in England.

It is intended to replace the early years pathway in the Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People’s Workforce (CYPW) (QCF). This competency qualification is made up of 9 mandatory units that every learner must complete – these units are based on the Early Years Educator (EYE) criteria. Within the mandatory units there will be 2 knowledge units, all other units will be competency units. There will also be a wide range of optional units which will enable learners to achieve units specific to their job role, for example child minding.

Learn more on our website at www.btec.co.uk/cpld2014.

New Level 1/2 BTEC qualifications for early years

We have recently had the accreditation of the new BTEC Level 1/2 First Award and Certificate in Children’s Play, Learning and Development, which are available for teaching now. The accredited specification and details can be accessed here: www.btec.co.uk/cpld12.

Recently the NCTL confirmed that Level 2 qualifications will continue to count in the ratios of staff to children for now, so we have extended the BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Children’s Play, Learning and Development to August 2015, which is to qualify post-16 learners to work in a supervised role.

CHILDREN'S PLAY, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Further information

For further information about the new qualifications, please see the BTEC website:

www.btec.co.uk/cpld2014.

We will be updating centres with progress and news on a regular basis. Sign up for our Subject Advisor updates if you have not already done so,

www.btec.co.uk/cpld2014.

Interested in offering the new qualifications?

Contact your local Pearson Curriculum Development Manager (CDM) or Curriculum Support Consultant (CSC) to express your interest.

If you have any questions about the new qualifications, please contact Kate Elsmore and her Subject Advisor team on:

- Email: **TeachingChildCare@pearson.com**
- Phone: **0844 463 2815**

You can also follow Kate on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/subjectadvisorhealthandsocialcare

Z035168 T656 Version 2 (July 2014)