

## Changes to Entry Requirements for Level 3 Early Years Educator Qualifications (England only)

### 1. How will these changes affect learners?

Learners aged 16-18 will still be funded by the Education Funding Agency without maths and/or English GCSE at grade C, and encouraged to take up these subjects for this coming academic year. However from 2016/17, these learners will not have any part of their BTEC Level 3 National Certificate/Diploma in CPLD (or any other Early Years Educator qualification) programme funded without the specified GCSEs.

From 1 August 2014, learners aged 19-23 will not be eligible for public funding of the BTEC Level 3 National Certificate/Diploma in CPLD (or any other Early Years Educator qualification) unless they hold a GCSE C grade in English/English Language and maths prior to entry onto the course.

From 1 August 2014, learners aged 24+ will not be eligible for an advanced learner loan for the BTEC Level 3 National Certificate/Diploma in CPLD (or any other Early Years Educator qualification) unless they hold a GCSE C grade in English/English Language and maths prior to entry onto the course.

All learners will need GCSE English/English language and maths in order to practise as an Early Years Educator and count in the staff:child ratios.

### 2. Why have the changes to entry requirements been introduced?

These changes have been introduced by the National College of Teaching and Leadership, following on from the Nutbrown Review (2012) of early years qualifications and education and 'More Great Childcare' (2013) government response. This change is one of the measures being introduced, in addition to the new Early Years Educator qualifications, to help up-skill the early years workforce.

### 3. What does this mean for the new BTEC Level 3 National Certificate/Diploma in Children's Play, Learning and Development (Early Years Educator) (VRQ)?

Learners intending to take either the National Certificate/Diploma (taught from September 2014) are likely to need to have their GCSE C grade/above in English/English Language and maths prior to registering on the course. This is dependent on their age range, as detailed in question 1.

Functional skills do not count as an equivalent to GCSE in this instance.

**Centres will need to bear this in mind when recruiting learners, as learners without these GCSEs will not be able to secure a job as an early years practitioner/educator and count in the Level 3 staff:child ratio under the forthcoming requirements of the revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).**

### 4. What if I am delivering one of the smaller sizes (Subsidiary Award, Award, Subsidiary Certificate) which do not confer Early Years Educator status?

As the purpose of the smaller sizes is not to confer Early Years Educator status on learners, they are not subject to the same entry requirements as above.

However, your centre needs to ensure that applicants have appropriate information and advice about the qualifications and that the qualifications will meet their needs. Your centre should take appropriate steps to assess each applicant's potential and make a professional judgement about their ability to successfully complete the programme of study and achieve the 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.

### **5. Do these changes only affect the Pearson 'Early Years Educator' qualifications?**

The new entry requirements will apply to all the 'Early Years Educator' qualifications, offered by all Awarding Organisations.

### **6. I have a learner who wants to work as an Early Years practitioner, but they do not have GCSEs in English and/or maths. What are their options?**

Learners without the relevant GCSEs, could take or re-sit their GCSE(s) whilst taking a Level 2 early years qualification, for example the:

- BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development
- Next Generation BTEC Level 1/2 First Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development, which contains external assessment to help aid progression onto the new BTEC at Level 3.

Details of the GCSE in English/English Language and maths offered by Pearson are available here on the Pearson website.

### **7. I have a learner who just narrowly missed out on one of their required GCSE C grades, but they have the academic ability and skills to cope well with the demands of a Level 3 course. What options do they have with BTEC qualifications?**

In a few individual cases such as the one detailed above, you may wish to consider registering individual learners on the BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development in their first year, enabling them to re-sit the GCSE and then top up in their second year to the National Certificate/Diploma size (once they have the required grades), which confers Early Years Educator status on learners.

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## What does this mean for BTEC centres?

**To find out more** about how these changes will affect you, discuss your options and the new Level 3 BTEC Early Years Educator qualifications **please contact your local Pearson Curriculum Development Manager or our Subject Advisor, Kate Elsmore on 0844 463 2815 / TeachingChildCare@pearson.com**