

NVQs and SVQs in Children's Care, Learning and Development A Centre's Guide



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A Centre's Guide

In order to deliver the quality of service that the sector and other key stakeholders require, it is essential to have a highly qualified flexible workforce that reflects the changing roles and additional demands on the workforce. The revised awards have been designed to offer a more flexible and wide range of options to address the increasing number of emerging job roles, settings and the need to continually update and extend skills. In light of these new requirements it was felt that the name early years was acting as a barrier to those parts of the workforce which required flexible transferable skills to enable them to work with older children however, lacked the knowledge and understanding of children's age range across an expanded age range and suitable opportunities to demonstrate their competence. Therefore, within the revised qualifications there is a requirement for learners to demonstrate this knowledge and understanding of child development across the age range 0-16 years.

These new qualifications are especially designed for people who work with children and young people aged 0 to 16. They reflect the diverse group of people who do not work in a single age range, but move between settings catering for different needs. They are relevant to people working in day care, crèches, preschools and schools, hospitals, primary care and community based services such as SureStart programmes. They are also relevant to people working as childminders.

What qualifications are available?

Level 2 NVQ/SVQ in Children's care, learning and development

This qualification is aimed at nursery assistants, crèche workers, special educational needs assistants working in a supporting role.

Learners need to complete **seven** units, the following six of which are core:

- Contribute to positive relationships
- Help to keep children safe
- Support children's development
- Use support to develop own practice in children's care learning and development
- Prepare and maintain environments to meet children's needs
- Support children's play and learning

They then choose 1 optional unit (from a choice of 4) that best match their usual work role. These units cover a wide range of subjects, including supporting the development of babies and children as well as supporting children's education and recreational needs.

Level 3 NVQ/SVQ in Children's care, learning and development

This qualification is aimed at childminders, day-care supervisors, SureStart workers and community nursery nurses. Learners may have some supervisory responsibilities or you might be involved in specialist tasks with some degree of responsibility or independence.

Learners need to complete **nine** units, the following five of which are core:

- Develop and promote positive relationships
- Develop and maintain a healthy, safe and secure environment for children
- Promote children's development
- Reflect on and develop practice
- Protect and promote children's rights

They then choose four optional units (from a choice of 41) that best match their usual work role. This range of options covers a wide range of work roles including working with families to enhance children and young people's education, safeguarding children from harm and mentoring colleagues in the workplace.

Level 4 NVQ/SVQ in Children's care, learning and development

This qualification is aimed at centre managers, senior practitioner, childminding co-ordinators or pre-school advisers. Learners will have management or supervisory responsibility of other staff and may have an overall responsibility of the services provided.

Learners need to complete **nine** units, the following four of which are core:

- Establish and develop working relationships
- Support policies, procedures and practice to safeguard children and ensure their inclusion and well-being
- Support programmes for the promotion of children's development
- Reflect on, review and develop own practice
- Co-ordinate provision for babies and children under 3 years in partnership with their families

They then choose five further optional units (from a choice of 29 units) that best match their work role. This range of options covers a wide range of work roles including safeguarding children from harm, contributing to the management of child care provision and the recruitment of staff and mentoring colleagues in the workplace.

Do the qualifications form part of a recognised framework?

The NVQs and SVQs are accredited by both QCA and SQA. They are based on the National Occupational Standards agreed by the Sector Skills Councils and represent agreed best practice. This means that they are the qualifications most widely recognised by regulators, workforce development organisations and employers as the benchmark for the sector.

How is the qualification assessed?

These qualifications are work based awards and learners' skills and knowledge are assessed in the workplace whilst they are working directly with children, young people, their families and colleagues. They must be working in a real child care setting on a full or part time basis and in paid or voluntary work. If learners require any additional training prior to assessment this can be based in or out of the workplace or by distance or e-learning.

Key points

- Designed for people working with children and young people aged 0-16 in the full range of settings
- Recognised by workforce and service regulators across the UK
- Increased scope for the use of expert witness evidence
- Incentives to use the structures for continuing professional development
- Centre publications available in arrange of formats

These new N/SVQs also allow for greater input of evidence by an identified expert witness especially in the optional units. The centre is responsible for ensuring that the expert witness meets the requirements of their role which is outlined in the Standards and Assessment Requirements document.

What publications are available?

When you register a candidate you will automatically receive copies of the Centre's Guide to N/SVQs, the Standards and Assessment Requirements, and the core units. This is included in the registration fee. Additional copies are available from our Publications team.

You can also request a CD ROM containing the Centre guide to N/SVQs, the Candidate guide, and the Standards and Assessment Requirements and all of the core and optional units. The Standards and Assessment Requirements book details the requirements of assessors, verifiers and expert witnesses and also contain the required assessment documentation with exemplars of their use.

All of the above and other supporting documentation is also available from our website at www.cityandguilds.com

Nelson Thornes publishers are producing a series 'City & Guilds Endorsed' text books to support learners. Visit their website to find out more www.nelsonthornes.com

Why choose City & Guilds?

City & Guilds Community & Society sector is the foremost provider of vocational qualifications in the children's sector with dedicated development, quality assurance and quality improvement teams. These are supported by a network of specialist advisers in each of our local offices around the UK. Advisers work directly with employers and assessment centres to ensure that our qualifications meet your requirements.

Are there any other qualifications that may be of interest?

You might also be interested in these NVQ/SVQs:

Level 4 NVQ Registered Managers (Adults)

Level 4 SVQ Registered Manager in Health and Social Care (Adults)

Level 4 NVQ Managers in Residential Child Care

Levels 2 and 3 NVQ in Youth Work

We also offer a range of qualifications designed to help you progress between levels:

Levels 2 and 3 Certificates in Children's care, learning and development

Levels 2 and 3 Certificate in Working with People who have Learning Disabilities

Level 3 Certificate in Community Mental Health Care

Higher Professional Diploma in Learning Disability Services

Higher Professional Diploma in Health and Well-Being

If learners are new to their work area, they might want to look at these Initial Awards:

Level 2 Certificate in Contributing to the Early Years Setting

Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Work

How can I find out more?

You can find out more by contacting your nearest City & Guilds centre. To find it, log on to our website or contact our Customer Relations team at:

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If you're asked for a scheme number, please quote 3171 for the NVQ and 3174 for the SVQ.

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