Statement of Purpose

Proposed WJEC Level 1/2 Qualification in Child Development

Overview

The proposed Level 1/2 qualification in Child Development will be designed to encourage and inspire learners into following a worthwhile qualification that will provide an opportunity to extend and apply their skills, knowledge and understanding of the development and care of children from conception to the age of eight years. It will be designed to create independent learners that can make informed decisions about further learning opportunities or continuing into related career choices. Learners will develop both a critical and analytical approach to problem-solving, whilst gaining an understanding of the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of the child.

The Level 1/2 qualification in Child Development will be designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer for further study or a career within the early years, health or social care sectors.

Although there are no formal entry requirements, learners would find the following learning skills and aptitudes helpful: basic proficiency in literacy and numeracy, some aptitude for working with computers, the ability to communicate with others and motivation to work independently.

Proposed qualification structure and content

It is proposed that the WJEC Level 1/2 Child Development qualification would be made up of one mandatory unit with two distinct assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Number</th>
<th>Unit Title</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Mandatory/Optional</th>
<th>GLH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Principles of Child</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>120</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Internal</td>
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The structure of the qualification has been designed to develop in learners the knowledge and understanding of how children’s growth and development follows a clear pattern and the circumstances that have an effect this. The unit will consist of two main sections:
Growth and Development: based around the ways that children grow and develop from conception to eight years and will enable learners to gain knowledge and understanding of the main health and social care services available to meet the needs of children and families. This section will incorporate the importance of pre-planned parenthood, pre-conceptual care, ante-natal and post-natal care, as well as physical, cognitive, social and emotional patterns of development to include data analysis and statistics in relation to current theories of development.

Influences on Development: based on providing learners with knowledge and understanding of the impact of inequalities in growth and development and how they cause differences in patterns of growth and development. The section will incorporate factors influencing the growth and development of children, to include: contemporary issues in relation to the influence of family, community, current trends, socio-economic/environmental issues, social and cultural issues, safeguarding and security needs and technological change on the growth and development of the child.

The unit has been designed so that knowledge, skills and understanding are developed through a range of activities. The unit has what is referred to as an applied purpose, which acts as a focus for learning. This approach is called applied learning.

Internal assessment: learners will be required to produce a report under controlled conditions based on an in depth written profile of a child. WJEC will provide learners with a structured case study, released on a set date. The report would need to be completed in timed sessions during an assessment window set by the awarding body.

External assessment: learners will be required to complete a written examination which will consist of questions which range from short response items to extended writing which will allow learners of all abilities to demonstrate recall, application of knowledge, analysis, discussion and evaluation of scenario information.

Learning experience

The proposed WJEC Level 1 and 2 Child Development qualification is designed for learners to gain the knowledge, understanding and the skills required for some independent learning and development, not exclusively including:

- a range of generic and transferable skills
- the ability to solve problems
- the skills of research
- an understanding of the demands of caring for children
- the ability to apply learning in related contexts

Assessment

The proposed WJEC Level 1/2 Child Development qualification is assessed through a combination of one written examination set and marked by WJEC and one centre-marked assignment, moderated by WJEC.
Progression

The proposed WJEC Level 1/2 Child Development qualification has elements of psychology, social policy and sociology that complement studies in humanities and related subjects. The main purpose of the qualification is to support access to further education and training, such as:

- WJEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care
- Level 3 CACHE qualifications in Child Care and Early Years Education
- GCE in Sociology
- GCE in Psychology
- Degree courses in Early Childhood Studies