

# LEVEL 3 DIPLOMA FOR THE EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER (EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR)

City & Guilds qualification number 3605-03

Qualification accreditation number 601/3118/4

## Who is it for?

Anyone working as a practitioner in a wide range of children and young people's settings. From 1 September, to count at Level 3 under the EYFS, all new entrants must register for a qualification mapped against the Early Years Educator criteria (although predecessor qualifications such as the Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce will continue to be recognised as 'full and relevant' for the purpose of the EYFS).

## What is the structure?

The Level 3 EYE Diploma consists of 17 mandatory units amounting to 64 credits in total. Elective units are also available (at additional cost) but these do not count towards the qualification and are offered by way of additional professional development.

### The mandatory units are:

- Developing effective study skills
- Promote partnership working with parents
- Model, promote and support positive behaviour with children
- Principles of safeguarding policies and procedures in early years settings
- Promoting diversity, equality and inclusion in the early years sector
- Working in partnership with colleagues and other professionals in early years settings
- Plan and implement activities, play opportunities and educational programmes in an early years setting

- Promoting children's health and welfare in an early years setting
- Promoting the health and safety of children
- Promote children's speech, language and communication development
- Support organisational requirements for recording, storing and disclosing information and providing reports in an early years setting
- Supporting children's creative and imaginative play and experiences
- Supporting children experiencing transitions and significant events in the early years
- Theories which underpin practice in the early years sector
- Child development from conception to 7 years
- Observation and assessment in the early years sector

## Where will it take me?

A Level 3 EYE Diploma allows you to manage a setting. However, you can develop your career further by undertaking the Level 5 Diploma in Early Years Leadership. This is a challenging programme offering excellent career progression and professional development while also acting as a bridge to higher education: PBD has arrangements with several leading universities under which anyone who completes the Level 5 Diploma with PBD is guaranteed access directly to the second year of a degree programme and, if they wish, subsequently achieve Early Years Teacher status.

## How is it delivered?

You will be assigned a personal assessor – an experienced practitioner who is there to help and guide you. You will build up evidence to of what you know, and what you can do: this will be stored in a web based e-portfolio, which you and your assessor can access at any time. You will develop your knowledge through studying a mixture of printed and online resources and attending webinars: your assessor will test your knowledge by setting you a variety of tasks. Your assessor will also visit you at work to carry out and record observations of your practice.



## How long does it take?

There is no fixed period – it depends on how committed you are and how easily we can carry out observations. 15 to 18 months is probably typical. If you are doing this qualification as part of an apprenticeship, please note that there is a minimum duration of one year.

## What funding is available?

If you are employed as an apprentice for at least 16 hours per week, we should be able to access public funding for your training, although your employer may have to make a small contribution.

If not, we may still be able to access some public funding if you are receiving state benefits or if you do not already have any qualification at Level 3 or above (which includes 2 A levels).

If you are aged 19 or over, you may also be eligible for a government loan (available for qualifications at levels 3 and above). This will cover up to the full amount of the fee and requires no repayment until your annual income reaches £21,000. You will find full details of the loans system and application process on our website.

In other circumstances you will need to pay the full price for the qualification.

**Regardless of the method of funding, please note that, under the EYFS, anyone holding an Early Years Educator qualification is not allowed to count as a Level 3 practitioner unless they have achieved appropriate qualifications in maths and English.**