

Early Years Educator/Practitioner qualifications – ‘knowledge only’ option

To enable progression for learners who are unable to access a work placement due to the current restrictions, we have worked together with Ofqual, Department for Education (DfE), Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and UCAS to agree how learners can progress through a **knowledge-only version of Early Years Educator or Early Years Practitioner qualifications** listed in the table below.

QRN	Early Years Educator/Practitioner qualification
601/2147/6	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator)
601/8438/3	NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator)
601/2629/2	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce ((Early Years Educator)
601/4000/8	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator)
601/8437/1	NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator)
603/3723/0	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner

The certificate of achievement will display the same Qualification Reference Number (QRN) and title of the original qualification undertaken, with ‘knowledge only pathway’ clearly identified. This is to distinguish between knowledge only achievement and an Early Years Educator/Early Years Practitioner competence to practice at Level 2 or 3. **Learners who wish to embark on the DfE skills criteria at a later date will still have an opportunity to do so.**

UCAS tariff points

UCAS and ESFA have confirmed that learners will continue to gain the respective allocated UCAS tariff points and your centre can continue to draw down funding. The DfE has also confirmed that their lists of full and relevant qualifications for the Early Years Educator/Practitioner will be updated regarding the differentiation between knowledge only and competence to practice, adding clarity for employers. We appreciate that centres are likely to have a mixture of individual requirements within the same cohort due and with that in mind, we will be holding a webinar to explore the different options available to support learner achievement.

[Book on to our webinar](#)

Our webinar on Tuesday 30 March will focus on exploring adaptations for qualifications carrying competence to practice at level 2 and level 3. We will go through adaptations to support completion of these qualifications and the options that are available. The webinar will not cover the principles and practicalities of the Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) process.

Further queries

This new 'knowledge only' approach will allow learners to progress within FE or to HE, if this is their primary purpose. More information about how you can make a claim for the 'knowledge only' version of the qualification/s will be communicated by 1 May 2021.

Prior to the webinar, if you have any questions regarding the guidance provided here, please contact your External Quality Assurer.