



**NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Certificate in
Childcare and Education (601/8436/X)**

**NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma in Childcare
and Education (Early Years Educator) (601/8437/1)**

External Assessment Task

CCE1

Start date: Wednesday 14 January 2026

Submission date: Friday 30 January 2026

Time allowed: 20 hours

Paper number: Past paper

This external assessment task relates to units 1 and 7.

Information for learners

Read this information carefully before you start the assessment.

To be awarded this qualification you must achieve a pass grade (D to A*) in the external assessment task.

Your work on the external assessment task should **not** exceed 5000 words. Work that is more than 10% above this limit (5500 words) will **not** be marked. It is recommended that you make effective use of the full word limit to meet the requirements of the criteria.

You **must** work independently and all of the work in the external assessment task **must** be your own.

Any work that you have submitted for internal assessment **cannot** be submitted as part of your work for the external assessment task.

You can take any notes, materials and research produced prior to the external assessment into the **first** supervised session. You can also access these in the remainder of the sessions.

After the **first** session, you are **not** permitted to bring in additional notes, materials and research.

At the end of each supervised session, your supervisor will collect all external assessment materials, including notes, materials and research, before you leave the room. You **must not** take any external assessment material out of the room.

This material will be securely stored between supervised sessions, and you **will not** have access to the material outside of these sessions.

You **must** hand in the external assessment task as a whole piece of work and not in separate sections.

You **must** organise your responses to the criteria logically and identify the criteria that you are responding to – for example, D1, D2, C1, C2 – at the beginning of the section.

You **must** respond to each criteria individually. Do **not** combine criteria, as the external assessment task is not marked holistically. **If you combine criteria, you may be awarded a not yet achieved (NYA) grade for the external assessment task.**

Read the criteria carefully, thinking about your personal experiences in settings and what you have been taught. A short explanation is given for each criteria to show what is required.

You should think about the key words within each criteria to make sure that your information covers all essential points.

References **must** support responses given in each grade and should **not** be submitted as a separate criteria.

All criteria for a grade must be completed for the grade to be awarded.

You should **not** include appendices. These will **not** be marked.

You **must** use references in this assessment to support your understanding or to justify your comments.

- You **must** clearly show where sources have been used to support your own ideas and opinions to avoid plagiarism.
- You **must** clearly reference all sources used to support your own ideas and opinions, to make sure they are traceable.
- You **must** show quotations from websites in full, giving the date of access.
- Quotations **must not** be used to provide information in place of your own words.
- Quotations **must** be used within the text to support your own discussion and are **not** included in the word count.

If you plagiarise, you may be awarded an NYA grade for the external assessment task. For more guidance, refer to the Plagiarism Guidance Document located on the NCFE website and the JCQ Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures located on the JCQ website.

Instructions for submitting your external assessment task

Before you hand in this external assessment task you should proofread it and make sure that:

- all information is focused on the requirements of each criteria and the title of the assessment
- information has not been repeated
- all quotations are identifiable and traceable.

You **must** produce your external assessment task in an electronic format, using black font, Arial size 11 to 14.

Clearly label each page of your external assessment task with your centre number, your name and your learner number. You must also number each page in the format 'Page X of Y', where X is the page number and Y is the total number of pages.

Please make sure that you have completed and signed the External Assessment Cover Sheet (EACS) and include it at the front of your external assessment task.

The external assessment task **must** be submitted to the supervisor in a single plastic sleeve, unstapled.

External assessment task title

Supporting children's play, learning and development

Grading criteria

	Grading criteria	Explanation
D1	Explain the relevance of the title to children's care or education.	Give two or more reasons to explain the importance of the title for children's care or education.
D2	Describe effective practice that supports children's wellbeing or development in relation to the title.	Two or more ways that practitioners can support children's wellbeing or development must be described in relation to the title.
D3	Include two traceable quotations that support your response to D grade criteria.	Two identifiable and referenced quotations must support the explanation and / or description.
	Learner check	D1, D2, D3 complete ☐
C1	Describe policies or procedures that relate to the title.	Two or more policies or procedures that underpin practice must be identified and described in relation to the title.
C2	Discuss how routines or activities can support children in relation to the title.	Two or more relevant routines or activities must be identified, and reasons must be given in relation to the title to show how the routines or activities support children.
C3	Include two traceable quotations that support your response to C grade criteria.	Two identifiable and referenced quotations must support the description and / or discussion.
	Learner check	C1, C2, C3 complete ☐
B1	Discuss legislation or theory or a philosophical approach that informs practice which relates to the title.	The contribution of one piece of relevant legislation or theory or philosophical approach to inform practice must be discussed in relation to the title.
B2	Explain how inclusive practice can be implemented in relation to the title.	Explain two or more ways to ensure inclusive practice is implemented in relation to the title.
B3	Include two traceable quotations that support your response to B grade criteria.	Two identifiable and referenced quotations must support the discussion and / or explanation.
	Learner check	B1, B2, B3 complete ☐

	Grading criteria	Explanation
A1	Analyse characteristics of an enabling environment that support children in relation to the title.	The analysis must show how two or more characteristics of an enabling environment support children in relation to the title.
A2	Analyse partnership working with families and professionals in relation to the title.	Working in partnership with both families and other professionals must be analysed in relation to the title.
A3	Include a minimum of two traceable quotations from different sources that support your response to A grade criteria.	Two identifiable and referenced quotations from different sources must support the analysis.
	Learner check	A1, A2, A3 complete ☐
A*1	Evaluate the impact of the framework or legislation that relates to the title.	The evaluation must consider the strengths and limitations of the framework or legislation and the impact of this in relation to the title.
A*2	Demonstrate wider background reading through the use of traceable quotations selected to support the critical discussion.	Wider background reading must be demonstrated through different sources used appropriately to support the critical discussion.
	Learner check	A*1, A*2 complete ☐

This is the end of the external assessment task.

This page is intentionally left blank.