

Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs)

NCFE CACHE Level 3 Extended Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator)

QN: 610/6133/5

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Introduction

EYE L3 WF 16 Enabling play environments in an early years setting (T/651/7204)

The unit considers curriculum and pedagogical practice to develop an enabling environment in an early years setting, making reference to playwork principles and the play cycle. The unit builds upon EYE L3 WF 7 Promoting an effective early years curriculum and EYE L3 WF 9 Understanding play for learning and holistic development.

Task 1a: developing an early years curriculum

You are asked to compile a report on the impact of the statutory framework and non-statutory guidance in the development of an early years' curriculum. Your report will demonstrate your understanding of influences on enabling play environments in an early years setting.

You must include and refer to the characteristics of effective teaching and learning identified in the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework and non-statutory guidance provided in Birth to 5 Matters.

Think about space, resources, safety, risks, language, variety, and choice.

Learning outcome and assessment criteria LO1 AC1.1

Learning	Assessment criteria	Pass	Merit	Distinction
outcome (LO)	(AC)	The learner will	The learner will	The learner will
The learner will:		be able to:	be able to:	be able to:
1. Understand	1.1 The impact of the	Summarise the	Explain the	Evaluate the
influences on	statutory	impact of the	impact of the	impact of the
enabling play	framework and	statutory	statutory	statutory
environments in	non-statutory	framework and	framework and	framework and
an early years	guidance in the	non-statutory	non-statutory	non-statutory
setting	development of	guidance in the	guidance in the	guidance in the
	an early years	development of	development of	development of
	curriculum	an early years	an early years	an early years
		curriculum.	curriculum.	curriculum.

Task 1b: teaching and learning

For this task you will plan an example activity that could be used in a setting that provides care for children aged 0 to 5. You can present your idea as a lesson plan or as a combination of writing and pictures.

You must refer to the characteristics of effective teaching and learning identified in the early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework, and how these are embedded in a quality curriculum in the early years.

Consider collaboration with your team, peers, and parents. Remember to include each child's individual needs and interest.

Remember that all settings that provide care for children aged 0 to 5 must meet safeguarding and welfare requirements.

Learning outcome and assessment criteria LO1 AC1.2

Learning outcome (LO)	Assessment criteria (AC)	Pass The learner will	Merit The learner will	Distinction The learner will
The learner will:		be able to:	be able to:	be able to:
1. Understand influences on enabling play environments in an early years setting	1.2 How the characteristics of effective teaching and learning are embedded in a quality curriculum in the early years	Identify the characteristics of effective teaching and learning in the context of the early years.	Explain the characteristics of effective teaching and learning in the context of the early years.	Evaluate the characteristics of effective teaching and learning in the context of the early years.

Task 2: play principles and the play cycle

For this task, you will create an information booklet that could be used as an induction resource for a new member of staff joining your organisation. This will demonstrate your knowledge about the Playwork Principles and the Play Cycle for children's development, learning and wellbeing.

Your booklet must cover the following:

- the Playwork Principles and the Play Cycle for children's development, learning and wellbeing
- play for children's holistic development and wellbeing
- the term 'compound flexibility' for children's increasing resilience
- the stages of the Play Cycle
- how the Play Cycle can inform and benefit play provision in an early years setting.

Think about safe and stimulating environments, developmental stages of play, social, emotional and cognitive development. Also, consider the range and diversity of resources and how self-directed play is essential for a child's development.

Learning outcome and assessment criteria

LO2 AC2.1 and AC2.2

Learning	Assessment criteria	Pass	Merit	Distinction
outcome (LO)	(AC)	The learner will	The learner will	The learner will
The learner will:		be able to:	be able to:	be able to:
2. Know about the	2.1 The Playwork	Identify the	Explain the	Assess the
Playwork	Principles	Playwork	Playwork	Playwork
Principles and		Principles.	Principles and	Principles and
the Play Cycle			how these can	how these can be
for children's			be used in the	used in the early
development,			early years	years setting.
learning and			setting.	
wellbeing	2.2 Play for children's	Describe play for	Explain play and	Evaluate play
	holistic	children's holistic	consider the	and the benefits
	development and	development and	benefits of play	of play for
	wellbeing	wellbeing.	for children's	children's holistic
			holistic	development and
			development and	wellbeing.
	0.0 Th - to	Define the terms	wellbeing.	Cyclycata that tames
	2.3 The term	Define the term	Discuss the term	Evaluate the term
	compound	compound	compound	compound
	flexibility for children's	flexibility for children's	flexibility for children's	flexibility for children's
	increasing	increasing	increasing	increasing
	resilience	resilience.	resilience.	resilience.
	2.4 The stages of the	Identify the	Explain the	Evaluate the
	Play Cycle	stages of the	stages of the	stages of the
	i lay dyeld	Play Cycle.	Play Cycle.	Play Cycle.
	2.5 How the Play	Describe how the	Explain how the	Evaluate how the
	Cycle can inform	Play Cycle can	Play Cycle can	Play Cycle can
	play provision in	inform play	inform and	inform and
	an early years	provision in an	benefit play	benefit play
	setting	early years	provision in an	provision in an
		setting.	early years	early years
			setting.	setting.

Change history record

Version	Description of change	Approval	Date of issue
1.0	First publication		October 2025