



NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Certificate for Early Years, Childcare and Education (603/2988/9)

External Assessment Task

AGCEYCE

Start date: Tuesday 13 January 2026

Submission date: Wednesday 28 January 2026

Time allowed: 8 hours

Paper number: Past paper

This external assessment task relates to units 1 and 5.

Information for learners

Read this information carefully before you start the assessment.

To be awarded this qualification you must achieve a pass grade (P/M/D) in the external assessment task.

Your work on the external assessment task should not exceed 1500 words. Work that is more than 10% above this limit (1650 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, P1, P2, M1, M2 – 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

Grading criteria

	Grading criteria	Explanation
P1	Explain the importance of meeting children's needs in relation to the title.	Two or more reasons must be presented to show the importance of meeting children's needs in relation to the title.
P2	Describe policies or procedures that relate to the title.	Two or more policies or procedures that underpin practice and relate to the title must be described.
P3	Describe an enabling environment that supports children in relation to the title.	Two or more characteristics of an enabling environment that supports children and relates to the title must be described.
P4	Include two identifiable and traceable quotations that support your response to P grade criteria.	Two identifiable and traceable quotations must support the description and / or explanation.
	Learner check	P1, P2, P3, P4 complete ☐
M1	Discuss the impact of one theoretical approach on children's learning or development in relation to the title.	The impact of one theoretical approach on children's learning or development must be discussed in relation to the title.
M2	Explain how child-centred planning supports practitioners to meet children's individual needs in relation to the title.	The explanation must focus on planning to demonstrate how child-centred planning meets the individual needs of children in relation to the title.
M3	Include two identifiable and traceable quotations that support your response to M grade criteria.	Two identifiable and traceable quotations must support the discussion and / or explanation.
	Learner check	M1, M2, M3 complete ☐
D1	Evaluate strategies that may be implemented to support children in relation to the title.	Two strategies must be evaluated from more than one perspective to demonstrate the strengths and limitations in supporting children in relation to the title.
D2	Demonstrate wider background reading through carefully selected identifiable and traceable quotations.	Wider background reading must be demonstrated through different sources used appropriately.
	Learner check	D1, D2 complete ☐

This is the end of the external assessment task.