

NCFE



Early Years & Education SWAPs Product Information Guide



Sector-based Work Academy Programmes (SWAPs) Overview

A SWAP is a short programme of training lasting up to six weeks and includes three components:

- Pre-employment training
- Work placement opportunity within business
- Guaranteed job interview or assistance with the job application process.

A key strength of SWAPs are their flexibility, enabling programmes to be tailored to local employer, sector and regional needs. In a short timeframe, learners build industry knowledge, practical skills and confidence and quickly progress towards work-readiness.

Early Years & Education Pathway Overview

This SWAP provides a supportive route into school and early years settings. Its purpose is to build sector awareness, workplace confidence and readiness for entry into support roles across education and early years environments.

Sector and Job Roles: Education & Training – Teaching Assistant, Early Years and Schools Support roles



Example:

Level 1			
Sector Specific Training	NCFE CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools (603/2477/6)	This qualification prepares learners for further learning and training whilst developing an understanding of the teaching and learning environment in a school setting. It covers areas such as how to support the well-being of a child or young person and child and young person development.	47 GLH
	NCFE CACHE Level 1 Award in Understanding Safeguarding in Education (603/5150/0)	The purpose of this qualification is to give learners the knowledge and understanding of their legal responsibility to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and learners.	70 GLH
Transferable Skills	NCFE Level 1 Award in Employability Skills (601/4680/1)	This qualification aims to develop and enhance skills required for the working environment and improve learners' confidence and communication skills in order to prepare them for employment or for a change in employment.	36 GLH
Total			153 GLH

153 GLH = 25 hours/week for 6 weeks



Level 2			
Sector Specific Training	<p>NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award in Support Work in Schools and Colleges (603/2478/8)</p>	<p>This qualification is an introduction to the knowledge and understanding needed to work in a school or college environment. It can apply to the many varied roles that full and part-time support staff may fulfil including administrative roles, site support roles, technical roles and volunteers, as well as roles that work directly with children and young people in the learning environment.</p>	90 GLH
	<p>NCFE CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment (600/5515/7)</p>	<p>This qualification aims to provide learners with the suitable knowledge and understanding that everyone has the right to learn, to be safe and to be respected.</p>	26 GLH
Transferable Skills	<p>Interview Skills (K/502/3615/UNIT) - Level 1</p>	<p>This unit covers to the preparation needed for job interviews and being interviewed and includes finding out more about the recruiting organisation and the role, identifying and preparing for potential interview questions, appropriate dress and language for interviews, speaking and listening skills and getting feedback.</p>	6 GLH
Total			122 GLH

122 GLH = 21 hours/week for 6 weeks

These are selected examples from our portfolio.

Find out more about our full range of Early Years qualifications on our [sector page](#).



Supporting Workforce Need

This SWAP supports inclusive growth by enabling career shifts into school and early years roles, particularly for demographics including parents and returners to work. It aligns with sustained demand for support staff and local authority workforce needs, drawing on NCFE CACHE's deep expertise in education, safeguarding and early years.

Progression

Participation in our SWAPs supports progression into employment by equipping learners with sector-specific skills, practical experience and direct access to recruitment opportunities.

Through pre-employment training, a structured work placement and a guaranteed interview or support with the employer's recruitment process, learners are well prepared to secure roles in the sector or progress into apprenticeships or further study, such as the [NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning \(603/2476/4\)](#).

Further Information

For further information on SWAP delivery please visit the government's [Employer Guide](#).

Get in touch:

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