

Summary of changes effective August 2026 (Qualification Specification version 2.0)

NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4587/1) and NCFE CACHE Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4588/3)

Following the revised and/or new knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) within the newly published occupational standard ST0888: Early Years Practitioner Level 2 Version 1.1, minor updates have been applied to NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4587/1) and NCFE CACHE Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for the Early Years Practitioner (Diploma) (610/4588/3) throughout the units. These changes will be reflected in version 2.0 of the Qualification Specification from **3 August 2026**.

The Early Years Practitioner (EYP) assessment principles have also been absorbed into the overarching 'NCFE assessment principles for adult care, childcare, early years and health qualifications', which can be found in the mandatory Support Handbook, and for your reassurance the delivery and assessment guidance sections in each unit have been updated to reflect this.

Amendment details

Unit	Amendment
EYP M1 Roles and responsibilities of the early years practitioner (F/651/2672)	- LO3, AC3.2 has been updated from 'Communicate with babies and young children in ways that will be understood, including verbal and non-verbal communication' to 'Communicate with babies and young children, including those for whom English is an additional language (EAL) and those with additional needs, in ways that will be understood, including verbal and non-verbal communication.' - LO3, AC3.5 has been updated from 'Use a range of communication methods to exchange information with young children and adults' to 'Use a range of appropriate communication methods to share information with young children, parents and/or carers and other professionals.'
EYP M2 Health and safety of babies and young children in the early years (H/651/2673)	LO1, AC1.1 has been updated from Outline the legal requirements and guidance for: health and safety, security' to 'Outline the legal requirements and guidance for health and safety.'

	• LO3, AC3.1 has been updated from 'Describe the roles and responsibilities of the early years practitioner, including reporting, in the event of identifying risks and hazards', to 'Describe the roles and responsibilities of the early years practitioner, including recording/reporting, in the event of identifying risks and hazards.' • LO4 has been updated from 'Be able to identify hazards in an early years setting' to 'Be able to identify hazards in an early years setting and during off-site visits.' • LO4, AC4.1 has been updated from 'Identify risks and hazards to health and safety in an early years setting' to 'Identify risks and hazards to health and safety in an early years setting and during off-site visits relating to both children and staff and visitors, following reporting procedures.' • LO5, AC5.1 has been updated from 'Use equipment, furniture and materials safely, following the manufacturers' instructions and setting's requirements' to 'Use equipment, furniture and materials safely and securely, following the manufacturers' instructions and setting's requirements.' • LO8, AC8.3 has been updated from 'Describe the role and responsibilities of the early years practitioner, including reporting, in the event of a baby or young child requiring: urgent/emergency medical/dental attention, non-urgent medical attention' to 'Describe the role and responsibilities of the early years practitioner, including recording/reporting, in the event of a baby or young child requiring: urgent/emergency medical/dental attention, non-urgent medical attention.' • the range for LO2, AC2.1 has been updated to include online safety/security
EYP M3 Equality, diversity and inclusive practice in early years settings (J/651/2674)	• an additional LO2, AC2.2 has been added: Explain the importance of equality, diversity, and inclusion, and respecting children's social and cultural context • revised guidance has been provided for LO3 in the delivery and assessment guidance section: Learners must work in ways that recognise and respect difference, appreciating fundamental British values. This must include democracy, the rule of

	the law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, to ensure all children have equal access to opportunities to learn, develop and reach their potential.
EYP M4 Safeguarding, protection and welfare of babies and young children in early years settings (K/651/2675)	• LO1, AC1.3 has been updated to include recording/reporting/dealing with disclosure • The range for LO1 has been expanded to include the following legislation and guidelines: ○ Legislation to include: Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, Children Act 2004, Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Children and Families Act 2014, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, Data Protection Act 2018, Sexual Offences Act 2003 ○ Guidelines to include: Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools 2021, EYFS welfare requirements (updated September 2025), Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales 2023, Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions 2015, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation 2020, Keeping children safe in education 2025, Keeping children safe helping families thrive 2024. • Additional guidance has been provided for LO4, AC4.1 in the delivery and assessment guidance section: LO4, AC4.1 – learners must be able to explain how policies and procedures help them to recognise when a child is in danger, at risk of serious harm or abuse and explain the procedures to be followed to protect them.
EYP M5 Understand how to support children's development (L/651/2676)	• LO3, AC3.1 has been updated from 'Explain how attachments develop' to 'Explain how attachments develop and its significance for babies and young children at different ages and stages.'
EYP M6 Support care routines for babies and young children (M/651/2677)	• LO3, AC3.1 has been updated from 'Demonstrate skills for the prevention and control of infection' to 'Demonstrate the use

	of prevention and control of infection techniques.' • LO6, AC6.1 from 'Follow policies and procedures to carry out personal care routines in relation to...' to 'Follow policies and procedures to carry out respectful personal care routines in relation to...' • LO6, AC6.2 'Demonstrate working in ways that encourage children to develop personal hygiene practices in relation to stage and needs' to 'Demonstrate working in ways that encourage children to develop personal hygiene practices (including oral hygiene) in relation to stage and needs.'
EYP M7 Support the planning and delivery of activities, purposeful play opportunities and educational programmes (R/651/2678)	• LO3, AC3.2 has been updated from 'Provide adult-led and child-initiated activities and play opportunities and educational programmes to support babies' and young children's holistic development through a range of play, creativity, social development and learning' to 'Work with colleagues to identify and plan educational programmes (both adult-led and child-initiated) to support children's holistic development through a range of play, creativity, social development and learning (both indoors and outdoors)' • The range for LO3 has been updated: Purposeful play activities must increase children's awareness of environmental sustainability.
EYP M9 Support wellbeing of babies and young children for healthy lifestyles (D/651/2680)	• LO3, AC3.1 has been updated from 'Promote health and wellbeing in settings by encouraging babies and young children to consume healthy and balanced meals, snacks and drinks appropriate for their age' to 'Promote health and wellbeing in settings by encouraging babies and young children to consume healthy, balanced and nutritious meals, snacks and drinks appropriate for their age' • LO3, AC3.2 has been updated from 'Share information with parents/carers about the importance of healthy balanced diets for nutrition, wellbeing and oral health' to 'Share information with parents and/or carers about the importance of healthy, balanced and nutritious diets for their child, as well as

	looking after teeth and being physically active.'
EYP M11 Support the needs of babies and young children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) (H/651/2682)	• LO3, AC3.1 has been updated from 'Describe the significance of attachment' to 'Describe the significance of attachment for babies and young children at different ages and stages' • LO5, AC5.1 has been updated from 'Demonstrate working in ways that value and respect the developmental needs and stages of babies and children, including supporting children during a range of transitions' to 'Demonstrate working in ways that value and respect the developmental needs and stages of babies and children, including supporting children during a range of transitions and significant events.'



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