



# **2008 Early Education and Childcare**

## **Higher – Paper 2**

### **Finalised Marking Instructions**

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### Higher – Paper 2

#### Question 3

- (a) Describe the way in which three environmental factors could affect the holistic health needs of the children in the case study.

6 KU

2 marks for each relevant factor explained such as:

#### **Housing**

- Children benefit from living in own house.
- Inadequate housing can affect health – overcrowding and unhygienic surroundings increase the likelihood of infections and accidents.
- Lack of privacy and overcrowding can affect cognitive health if there is nowhere to play and learn.
- Mental health may be negatively affected due to stress.
- Rob may be affected socially and emotionally as he will have no space to share with friends at home.
- Caitlin's medical condition may be affected by the living conditions or similar answers.

#### **Accident Prevention**

- Increased potential for accidents due to overcrowding, crossing busy roads with inappropriate supervision.
- Rob having to heat up food – risk of accidents.

#### **Pollution**

- Pollution from heavy traffic and industrial estate could contribute to allergies, asthma and other respiratory conditions.
- Delay in cognitive development may be associated with pollution.
- Noise pollution may be a factor causing problems with sleep and increasing stress or similar answers.

- (b) **With reference to the theory of Mia Kellmer Pringle, explain to what extent the holistic health needs of Rob and Caitlin are being met.**

**4 KU  
6 App1E**

**Kellmer Pringle** – summary of theory covering:

- all needs are interrelated and interdependent – theory developed specifically for child development.
- for children to develop their full potential all needs must be met – no hierarchical sequence.
- concentrates on psycho-social needs – four basic needs which require to be met throughout life: love and security, new experiences, praise and recognition, responsibility.
- early experiences and environment greatly influence later development.

Up to **4 marks** K & U for a clear summary of the main points of the Theory.

Explaining to what extent the holistic health needs of Rob and Caitlin are being met – **3 marks** for each child – up to **6 marks** in total.

Caitlin has several needs unmet – may have lack of love and security due to changes in circumstances – temporary accommodation and ill mother.

Health needs – has missed medical appointments. The family unit may meet some of her needs. Nursery will provide new experiences.

Or similar answers.

Rob – same needs as above may not be met – is being given responsibility that is not age appropriate relating to care of his sister and heating up food.

Or similar answers.

- (c) **Choose one voluntary agency and describe the services they provide in relation to children’s holistic health needs.**

**3 KU**

Voluntary Agencies include:

Childline – confidential helpline.

Children 1<sup>st</sup> – aims to give children a safe secure childhood.

Parentline – support for parents.

NCH Action for Children – works to end child poverty, provides residential and community care.

Save the Children – campaigns for the rights of children.

Barnardos – works for vulnerable children and young people in the community.

Kidscape – works to teach children to protect themselves from bullying and abuse.

Helpline.

Scottish Pre-school Play Association – develops quality care and education for pre-school children.

Or other appropriate agency. Up to **3 marks** K & U for an appropriate description.

**(d) Evaluate the effects of homelessness, unemployment and poverty on the holistic health of children.**

**6 AE**

Poverty, homelessness and unemployment have similar effects on holistic health aspects such as – cognitive – low expectations/achievement.

Physical – poor nutrition, health problems, accident risk.

Emotional – stress, causing low self-esteem and ill-health.

Social – Family breakdown.

Lack of opportunity.

Limited social experience.

Unemployment – Cycle of disadvantage.

Strong links between unemployment, poverty and health.

Widening inequalities in health.

Homelessness – Many of the above – increased susceptibility to ill-health, illness and accidents, spread of infection and negative effects on emotional health or similar examples.

#### Question 4

(a) Describe one relevant theory of cognitive development.

8 KU

Any relevant theory described such as:

##### **Piaget**

- babies are born with reflexes, which are involuntary responses to the environment
- schemata are patterns of behaviour which we use to guide and direct our behaviour
- schemata are adapted through assimilation and accommodation
- cognitive development consists of four main stages
- these stages are the sensori-motor stage, the pro-operational stage, the concrete operational stage and the formal operational stage
- Piaget's ideas included concepts such as symbolism, conservation, egocentrism and object permanence
- Piaget thought that it was impossible for children to understand unless they were operating at that stage of cognitive development
- cognitive development occurs as a result of active exploration and discovery of the world by children

##### **Fischer**

- skill theory proposes that development progresses through a series of skill structures known as levels
- skill levels are sensori-motor action, representation and abstraction
- skills develop in phases rather than stages
- development of skills depends on amount of practice and experience in that particular area such as art
- skills at one level in one developmental aspect will build directly on the skills in the preceding level
- gradual progression from one level to the next
- discrete stages in cognitive development which relate directly to maturation
- cognitive developmental progress is continuous
- individuals often do not perform at their best level as they may pursue too many skills
- an individual's performance in a variety of skills is likely to be good but only by isolating and practising specific skills can individual's perform at their optimum level.

**(b) Explain how a knowledge of the theory chosen in (a) will help the student plan appropriate activities to further these children's cognitive development.**

**6 AE**

If the student understands the following points relating to the chosen theory then appropriate activities could be planned. For example Piaget's theory.

- Children will benefit from early education and childcare workers' knowledge and understanding of how they acquire concepts as activities will be planned to meet their developmental needs.
- An understanding of schemata as patterns of behaviour will assist early education and childcare workers to recognise the learning processes of individual children and provide a range of meaningful activities for them.
- The stages of sensory motor stage, pre-operational stage, concrete operations stage and formal operations stage are useful guides to what to expect of children at different ages and stages.
- Identifying what level a child is operating at should enable the key worker to encourage cognitive development to the full.
- A recognition of the importance of providing a mixture of free-flow and adult directed play based on detailed observations of the childrens' stages of development.

**6 marks** for an appropriate explanation with a maximum of 3 marks being allocated for examples of relevant practical experiences to further cognitive development.

**(c) Describe the effects on children's emotional, personal and social development of being involved in this activity.**

**2 KU  
2 App1E**

By playing together at the water area the children will have an opportunity to share the equipment and take turns during this activity. By playing with other children they will develop skills in interacting with others. The children seem to be enjoying the activity and are having fun – this may develop their self-esteem and as this is an activity where there is no right or wrong answer they may develop confidence.

Or any other reasonable answer which demonstrates knowledge and understanding of what emotional, personal and social development is and applies this to the children in the case study.

- (d) **Explain how the activities in the scenario can promote the physical and linguistic development of the three children.**

**2 KU  
5 App1E**

**Physical development**

The children could develop their fine motor skills by filling and emptying the containers with water.

**Linguistic development**

The children could develop their communication skills by:

- listening and responding to questions and instructions from the other children and/or the student
- describing what they are doing, the texture of the water and what other children are doing
- learning new vocabulary as they explore the equipment in the water area
- Or any other reasonable answer.

Full marks can be given where candidates show an understanding of how development can be interconnected.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]