March 2005

To: SQA Coordinator (FE Colleges)
Directors of Education
SCIS
Customer Account Managers

For the attention of all staff responsible for the delivery of National Qualifications in Early Education and Childcare

Action by Recipient	
	Response required
✓	Note and pass on
	None — update/information only

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Dear Colleague

National Qualifications in Early Education and Childcare

The contents of this letter should be passed to the member of staff responsible for National Qualifications in Early Education and Childcare.

Diet 2004

The Principal Assessor and Senior Moderator reports for Diet 2004 can now be found on SQA's website (**www.sqa.org.uk**). These include:

- PA Report for Higher Early Years Care and Education

Appeals

Stage 1 and 2 appeals were completed successfully. Colleagues are requested to follow the guidance set out in the following documents prior to submitting appeals:

- *The Appeals Process: a guide for centres* (AA0690/3, June 2002)
- *Estimates and Assessment Appeals: Guidance on generating evidence* (A0992/2, February 2001)

NB Revised versions of both documents are due to be issued in March 2004. Copies of these documents can be downloaded from SQA's website (**www.sqa.org.uk**).

The most commonly found problems in evidence submitted for appeals this year were:

- Wrong or incomplete evidence.
- Inconsistencies in marking.
- Leniency in applying marks and grades.

National Certificate Group Award: Early Education and Childcare

The development of the new NC Group Award in Early Education and Childcare has progressed extremely well with the launch of this award taking place on 27 January 2005. Unit specifications have been written as have NABs for all 33 Units! The Subject Advisory Group was very much involved in the developments and many of the members were responsible for writing and vetting Unit Specifications and NABs — ably supplemented by subject specialists from a number of colleges and private providers. Other staff who had not been involved in the developments were called on to assist with the subject validation of the Courses and Units.

The development of this Award could not have taken place without the assistance and collaboration of a great number of staff from across the public and private sectors and SQA is grateful for the support received.

The Early Education and Childcare Group Award is the first of the revised style Group Awards which are part of the SQA Portfolio Review. It has the following new features:

- Contains 18 credits comprised of mandatory theory Units, mandatory placement Units and a choice of different appropriate optional strands.
- Optional assessment credits.
- The seven mandatory theory Units comprise a Professional Development Award.
- The development of a new Play Project Assessed Course with the emphasis on placement experience.

A table outlining the structure of the Award is attached as an Appendix.

The seminar to launch this award was held at the offices of the Scottish Further Education Unit in Stirling on 27 January. Comments made at the event were very positive and completed evaluation forms confirmed this. A number of issues which require further thought as regards implementation by centres were raised — eg a student who takes the external assessment as an option and fails the exam also fails the whole Group Award. Workshops based on content and structure of the award and on internal and external assessment gave delegates the opportunity to discuss a variety of issues. On the whole this was considered to be a very successful day — someone even suggested that SQA should be congratulated on the development and production of this award!

Early Years Care and Education (Higher)

Please note that the above **Course** has been revised as part of the development of the new National Certificate **Group Award** in Early Education and Childcare.

From Session 2005/06, The Early Years Care and Education (Higher) Course will be called: *Early Education and Childcare (Higher)* and will comprise of the following three mandatory Units*:*

Child Development: Birth to 12 years (Higher)	*40 hours*	1 credit
Developmental Theory in Early Education and Childcare (Higher)	*40 hours*	1 credit
Holistic Approaches to Child Health (Higher)	*40 hours*	1 credit

Revised Arrangements Documents, a Course Assessment Specification, Specimen Question Paper and National Assessment Bank items were distributed at the Launch Seminar and will be posted on SQA's website in due course.

Both the current and the revised Courses will be available in **Session 2005/06 only**. Thereafter only the revised Course will be available.

Project-assessed Course

Play In Early Education and Childcare (Higher)

This Course has been developed for the new NC Group Award but can of course be used independently of the Award. It comprises the following Units:

Play in Early Education and Childcare (Higher)	*40 hours*	1 credit
Play in Practice (Higher)	*80 hours*	2 credits

Arrangements Documents, the Project Specification and National Assessment Bank items were distributed at the Launch Seminar and will be posted on SQA's website in due course.

Assessment Panel

The remit and make-up of the Care Assessment Panel has been reviewed with the result that there are now more representatives on this Panel with the Early Education and Childcare sector well represented. The Assessment Panel continues to meet twice a year to look at issues arising in the assessment of Care Units and Courses. Colleagues are free to feed issues arising in their subject to the Panel either directly through panel members or via SQA officers.

A separate letter giving an update for other Courses in Care has been distributed to centres.

I hope that you find the above information useful. If you would like to discuss any matter in more detail, please do not hesitate to telephone me on 0141-242 2343, or e-mail me at tom.stannage@sqa.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Tom Stannage
Qualifications Manager
NQ Social Subjects

Appendix

NC Group Award:
Early Education and Childcare (Higher)

The National Certificate Group Award is an 18 credit award comprising of the following sections:

- 7 credit mandatory section
- 6 credit mandatory **placement** section
- 5 credit optional section

The optional section is a choice of 5 credits from 23 credits, and includes external assessment, core skills, general childcare and specific childcare options. All Units will have an age range of 0-12 unless stated and all Units will be supported by NAB material.

Three NABs have been produced for the Units which are part of Courses, two NABs for optional Units and one NAB for each of the Placement Units.

The minimum recommended entry requirement for the Award is four standard grades at credit level or equivalent. There is a suggested exit requirement of Communication Intermediate 2 or equivalent.

On successful completion of this Award candidates will be eligible for registration at 'support worker' level with the Scottish Social Services Council or progress on to higher early education and childcare qualifications.

There is the opportunity for candidates to gain two Higher Course awards as part of this National Certificate, as the mandatory Units which comprise the two Higher Courses are also mandatory in this NC. These Units are in bold on the NC structure tables.

The structure of the two Higher Courses are:

Early Education and Childcare (Higher) Course structure:

Four mandatory credits required:

Code							Title	Credit Value		Unit status
								SQA	SCQF	
D					1	2	Child Development: Birth to 12 Years	1	6	New
D					1	2	Developmental Theory in Early Education and Childcare	1	6	New
D					1	2	Holistic Approaches to Child Health	1	6	Revised
X					1	2	Early Education and Childcare (Question Paper)	1	6	Revised

Play in Early Education and Childcare (Higher) Course structure:

Four mandatory credits required:

Code							Title	Credit Value		Unit status
								SQA	SCQF	
D					1	2	Play in Early Education and Childcare	1	6	New
D					1	2	Play in Practice	2	6	New
X					1	2	Play in Early Education and Childcare (Project)	1	6	New

National Certificate Group Award: Early Education and Childcare (Higher) Structure:

Mandatory Units

Code							Title	Credit Value		Unit status
								SQA	SCQF	
D					1	2	**Child Development: Birth to 12 Years**	**1**	**6**	**New**
D					1	2	**Developmental Theory in Early Education and Childcare**	**1**	**6**	**New**
D					1	2	**Holistic Approaches to Child Health**	**1**	**6**	**Revised**
D					1	2	Supporting Children's Rights and Entitlements	1	6	New
D					1	2	Supporting Children's Behaviour	1	6	New
D					1	2	**Play in Early Education and Childcare**	**1**	**6**	**New**
D					1	2	**Play in Practice**	**2**	**12**	**New**
D					1	2	Developing an Understanding of Working with Children	1	6	New
D					1	2	Developing an Understanding of Working with Children: Workplace Experience	2	12	New
D					1	2	Experiential Approaches to Early Education and Childcare	2	12	Revised

National Certificate Group Award: Early Education and Childcare (Higher) Structure:

Optional Units

Code							Title	Credit Value		Unit status
								SQA	SCQF	
D					1	1	Prevention of Infection	1	6	Revised
D					1	1	First Aid	1	6	New
D					1	2	HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C Infections	1	6	Revised
D					1	1	Maintenance of a Safe Environment for Children	1	6	New
D					1	1	Partnerships in Early Education and Childcare	1	6	New
D					1	1	Child Development and Health: an introduction	1	6	New
D					1	1	Creative and Aesthetic Experiences for Children	1	6	Revised
D					1	1	Care and Feeding of Children	1	6	Revised
D					1	2	Supporting the Care and Feeding of Babies	1	6	New
D					1	2	Supporting the Care and Feeding of Babies: Workplace Experience	1	6	New
D					1	2	Supporting Language, Literacy and Numeracy in an Early Education and Childcare Setting	1	6	New
D					1	2	Supporting ICT in an Early Education and Childcare Setting	1	6	New
D					1	1	Supporting Children with Additional Support Needs	1	6	New
D					1	2	Supporting a Curriculum in an Early Education and Childcare Setting	1	6	New
D					1	2	Supporting a Curriculum in an Early Education and Childcare Setting: Workplace Experience	1	6	New
D					1	2	Supporting Playwork Practice	1	6	New
D					1	2	Supporting Playwork Practice: Workplace Experience	1	6	New
X					**1**	**2**	**Early Education and Childcare**	**1**	**6**	**Revised**

X					**1**	**2**	**Play in Early Education and Childcare**	**1**	**6**	**New**
D	0	1	B		1	2	Communication (Core Skill)	1	6	Existing
D	0	1	B		1	1	Communication (Core Skill)	1	6	Existing
D	0	1	C		1	1	Numeracy (Core Skill)	1	6	Existing
D	0	1	D		1	1	Information Technology (Core Skill)	1	6	Existing

NC Units listed by category: **Mandatory Section: 7 Credits (SCQF level 6)**
Child Development: Birth to Twelve Years (Higher)
Developmental Theory in Early Education and Childcare (Higher)
Supporting Children's Rights and Entitlements (Higher)
Holistic Approaches to Child Health (Higher)
Play in Early Education and Childcare (Higher)
Supporting Children's Behaviour (Higher)
Developing an Understanding of Working with Children (Higher)

Mandatory Placement Section 6 Credits (SCQF level 6)
Experiential Approaches to Early Education and Childcare (Higher) (2 credits)
Play in Practice (Higher) (2 credits) *
Developing an Understanding of Working with Children: Workplace Experience (Higher) (2 credits)

Option Section 5 credits (SCQF level 5/6)
External Assessment and Core Skills
Early Education and Childcare (Higher)
Project Assessed Course : Play in Early Education and Childcare (Higher)
Communication (Intermediate 2 or Higher)
Numeracy (Intermediate 2)
IT (Intermediate 2)
General Childcare Options
First Aid (Intermediate 2)
Care and Feeding of Children (Intermediate 2)
HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C Infections (Higher)
Partnerships in Early Education and Childcare (Intermediate 2)
Supporting Children with Additional Support Needs (Intermediate 2)
Maintenance of a Safe Environment for Children (Intermediate 2
Prevention of Infection (Intermediate 2)
Child Development and Health: an Introduction (Intermediate 2)
Creative and Aesthetic Experiences for Children (Intermediate 2)
Supporting ICT in an Early Education and Childcare Setting (Higher)
Birth – One Year Options
Supporting the Care and Feeding of Babies (Higher)
Supporting the Care and feeding of Babies: Workplace Experience (Higher)

3-8 Options
Supporting Language, Literacy and Numeracy in an Early Education and Childcare Setting (Higher)
Supporting a Curriculum in an Early Education and Childcare Setting (Higher)
Supporting a Curriculum in an Early Education and Childcare Setting: Workplace Experience (Higher)
Playwork Options
Supporting Playwork Practice (Higher)
Supporting Playwork Practice: Workplace Experience (Higher)