



National Qualifications 2014 Internal Assessment Report Childcare

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Courses

Titles/levels of National Courses verified:

DM411 Play in Early Education and Childcare
F19L11 Child Development and Health
DM4012 Holistic Approaches to EE&CC
DM3X12 Child Development: Birth to 12 years
DM4212 Play in Early Education and Childcare

General comments

All centres verified this year appear to clearly understand the requirements of the national standards of the award. Centres recognised the benefits of allowing students to develop good study skills and taking time to appropriately prepare students for closed-book assessment.

Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

All centres visited were aware of SQA Arrangements documents and current Unit specifications. Up-to-date instruments of assessment and exemplification materials were being used. All were using either SQA NABs or material that had been prior verified by SQA.

Evidence Requirements

Assessors and internal verifiers displayed a very good understanding of Evidence Requirements for the Units offered. All evidence sampled across assessors was appropriately marked, remediation clearly identified, and re-assessments carried out where required.

Administration of assessments

In all cases the administration of assessment complied well with SQA guidelines and external verification procedure checks. Providers used up-to-date instruments of assessment and exemplification materials, either SQA NABs and marking frames or material that had been prior verified by SQA.

Internal verification procedures appear to be well implemented with sufficient attention to detail. Most centres are paying particular attention to the standardisation of mark allocation. This appears to have had a direct impact on the accuracy of marking which has resulted in an ongoing improvement across the sector.

Some centres have used new NAB material which has been prior verified by SQA. Centres should be encouraged to share assessment material with other centres by allowing SQA to add them to the National Assessment Bank for the NQ award.

Areas of good practice

There was clear evidence of teaching around the subject. Learning materials were current with particularly good links to Curriculum for Excellence and Pre-Birth to Three across Units.

Detailed assessment feedback sheets continue to be developed within centres. This allows students to identify their strengths and areas for improvement.

Most centres have again increased the use of VLEs in support of assessment administration, provision of feedback, accessing of materials and provision of online group-support mechanisms. This has resulted in instant access to learning and support material for all candidates.

Specific areas for improvement

It is important to point out to centres that care should be taken to ensure that remediation or re-assessment work is clearly identified and logged. This will create a sound audit trail for assessors, internal verifiers and External Verifiers.