



National Qualifications 2016 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:

National Certificate in Early Education and Childcare

General comments

All centres 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 of taking time to appropriately prepare students for assessment.

Course arrangements, unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

The centres visited this year were aware of the SQA arrangements document 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.

The learning and teaching plans seen across the centres showed that appropriate learning activities and resources were for available for all candidates. These included relevant videos and texts as well as websites that candidates could use in their research. There was clear evidence of teaching around the subject and learning materials were current. There were particularly good links to Curriculum for Excellence and Pre Birth to Three across units.

Centres are becoming more familiar with the new units and evaluations of these are underway across the sector. There is good feedback so far.

Evidence requirements

Most 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. This indicates a marked improvement across the sector.

Where appropriate, assessments are taken under controlled conditions and are administered appropriately. Candidates doing project-type assessments completed these in the classroom with the tutor available.

All centres appear to have plagiarism policies which are used to authenticate candidate evidence.

Administration of assessments

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

Across all centres candidates get advanced notice of when assessments are to be completed. Good feedback is seen on the assessment feedback sheets as a matter of course. Generally, candidates are given advice on what they could have done to achieve a higher mark or the work they had done is praised.

In almost all cases, centres retain evidence for longer than the period stipulated by SQA.

Areas of good practice

All centres were able to evidence that they have very good partnership arrangements in place. Most showed that they work well with both schools and placement providers across early learning and childcare.

Specific areas for improvement

Centres should be careful to ensure that they are tracking candidates' remediation where appropriate.