Higher Childcare and Development: project guidance

This guidance document exemplifies how candidates can use the marking grid from the coursework assessment task to support their planning and to help develop their approach to answering each prompt in the project. The sample case study below exemplifies a suitable approach that would give candidates the opportunity to access all marks in each prompt. The responses in the 'suggested answers' columns illustrate how candidates could approach an answer to each prompt in relation to the brief selected and the case study.

Project brief: How can literacy development be supported for children and young people?

Sample case study:

Daniel is 4-years-old. He lives in a small village with a playpark and library, where he attends the local Book Bug class. He attends the local nursery and enjoys playing outdoors on the trim-trail and going on bug hunts in the woods. He enjoys the reading corner in nursery and has been practising his letters for transitioning to primary one. He is part of the local church community and attends Sunday School and Messy Church. His Mum and Dad are both in full-time employment.

All answers must relate to the brief and the child.

Item	Prompt	Max mark	Suggested answers and guidance
A	(i) Explain two aspects of development.	12	**Aspect 1 — Physical development** • must explain this in relation to Daniel, for example fine motor skill development while playing at the local park using chalk to 'mark make' and draw a hopscotch game • must explain physical milestones that a four-year-old would demonstrate. For example, pincer grip (holding chalk to 'mark make' and draw the numbers) **Aspect 2 — language development** • must explain this in relation to Daniel, for example. 'has a vocabulary of over 1000 words which is helped by visits to the local library' • must explain language milestones that a four-year-old would demonstrate. For example, recognising first name and surname
	(ii) Explain the interrelationship between these two aspects of development on the chosen child or young person.		Playing in the local park provides Daniel with the opportunity to 'mark make' on the ground using his fine motor skills and discuss the colours of chalk. While he does this he talks with his friends and parents and develops his language and communication skills.

Item	Prompt	Max mark	Suggested answers and guidance
B	Analyse three factors that influence development.	15	**Factor 1 — cultural influence of religion** • Positive influence in terms of Daniel attending Sunday school where he sings songs. • He attends messy church where he listens and joins in with stories, and mixes with his peers talking about the activities and pictures that they create. **Factor 2 — economic influence of income** • Both parents are in full-time employment and can therefore afford to buy Daniel books and other resources that would support his literacy development. • His parents also take him on regular trips to soft play where he meets other children and develops his vocabulary through communication. **Factor 3 — environmental influence of play parks** • Daniel visits the woods daily where he goes on a bug hunt using his iPad to search for the bugs that he finds. • Daniel uses his camera to take photographs of the bugs that he finds for his scrapbook which he then discusses with his friends and family. • The swings at the play park are run down and there is a large sign warning that they are not safe to play on. Daniel recognises this environmental print and understands that it represents danger.

Item	Prompt	Max mark	Suggested answers and guidance
C	Explain two theories of development.	10	**Theory 1 — Froebel (play theory)** • Froebel is a relevant theory because Daniel likes to play outdoors and talk about what he finds during his bug hunts. • Froebel believes that play helps children to develop their understanding of the world. Daniel recognizes the environmental print at the play park and can talk about how this is unsafe. • Froebel believes that development is holistic therefore when Daniel goes to the park to play with his friends, he is developing his literacy skills through communication and listening to instructions. • Froebel believes that it is important for children to make choices, and the local park allows Daniel to talk about why the swings are unsafe. **Theory 2 — Chomsky (language theory)** • Chomsky believed that children were to be bathed in language. Daniel's parents speak to him regularly at home, for example as they play with him at bath time. • Chomsky believes that language acquisition is strengthened from the interactions around individuals. Daniel is supported with his language development at the local library where he attends book bug sessions using puppets (he can make the voices of the animals as he plays and acts out the scenes). • Chomsky believes that children are born with a language acquisition device (LAD). Daniel can develop his skills in language as he has been exposed from an early age to play-based language activities such as attending Bookbug and Rhymetime at the library.

Item	Prompt	Max mark	Suggested answers and guidance
D	Analyse how the two chosen theories of development in prompt C can be applied to the chosen child or young person.	10	Answers must show positives and negatives of the two theories used in prompt C in relation to Daniel and the brief. Candidates may also include alternative theories to show different viewpoints, but these must relate to Daniel and the brief.

Item	Prompt	Max mark	Suggested answers and guidance
E	Explain two strategies and/or initiatives.	12	**Strategy or initiative 1 — ChildSmile** • Daniel attends the local nursery that ChildSmile visits to carry out play-based education on tooth brushing, for example using giant teeth and toothbrushes while listening to and following instructions. • ChildSmile is a supervised tooth brushing programme that Daniel takes part in at nursery by using flashcards which show him the order of the tooth brushing process. • ChildSmile apply fluoride varnish to the children in Daniel's nursery. They do this whilst singing songs and using puppets and Daniel loves to join in. Further development of the explanation must relate to Daniel and the brief. **Strategy or initiative 2 — Bookbug** • Bookbug promotes songs and rhymes for children, like Daniel, who have attended their local library for play-based singing and reading from an early age. • Bookbug develops early language skills and Daniel enjoys listening to stories and singing songs at the local library. • Bookbug uses action songs and props for play. Daniel likes to interact and copy the voices. Further development of the explanation must relate to Daniel and the brief.

Item	Prompt	Max mark	Suggested answers and guidance
F	Explain the ways that two current services may support the chosen child or young person.	10	**Service 1 — Education and Nursery** • Daniel attends the local nursery where the Bookbug session leader visits the children and brings each child a free book to take home. • At nursery, Daniel participates in play activities which promote his literacy development, such as story time. • The local nursery has a large outdoor area with a trim-trail where Daniel can play with his friends and follow instructions safely. • The local nursery uses Curriculum for Excellence planning documents and benchmarks to facilitate learning through play. This means that Daniel is meeting the benchmarks of a child his age through play-based learning. Any further explanation must relate to Daniel and the brief. **Service 2 — Dentistry and ChildSmile** • Daniel attends the local nursery that works in partnership with the ChildSmile team who deliver a range of play-based dental care for children. • Dentistry education is important so that Daniel can learn about the importance of oral hygiene by doing play-based activities such as using big teeth and toothbrushes. • Daniel enjoys learning to brush his teeth independently. The nursery have created flashcards which allow Daniel to follow the correct instructions when brushing his teeth. Any further explanation must relate to Daniel and the brief.

Item	Prompt	Max mark	Suggested answers and guidance
G	Explain the role and responsibilities of two professionals who support the chosen child or young person.	10	**Professional 1 — Early years worker** • Daniel attends the local nursery and has been assigned a key worker responsible for his development and learning through play. • The key worker's role is to help plan and prepare relevant language and literacy activities to challenge Daniel and promote his development. • The key worker will be responsible for recording Daniel's learning using a learning journal to demonstrate how his literacy development is progressing. The learning journal allows Daniel's voice to be heard, and his views represented. Any further point of explanation must relate to Daniel and the brief. **Professional 2 — ChildSmile practitioner** • Daniel attends the local nursery that works with the ChildSmile practitioner to promote good oral health through discussion and songs which Daneil likes to join in with. • The role of the ChildSmile practitioner is to teach Daniel how to brush his teeth correctly using play-based opportunities such as giant teeth and toothbrushes while following instructions and enhancing his listening skills. • The ChildSmile practitioner provides Daniel with a toothbrush, toothpaste and flashcards which show how to use them properly. Any further point of explanation must relate to Daniel and the brief.

Item	Prompt	Max mark	Suggested answers and guidance
H	Evaluate the effectiveness of partnership working between the two relevant professionals identified in prompt G who support the chosen child or young person.	6	**Partnership working between the early years worker and the ChildSmile practitioner** Positive: • Enables both professionals to ensure that Daniel is learning how to brush his teeth correctly by reinforcing songs and following instructions and therefore promotes good oral hygiene. Negative: • Due to conflicts in diary availability both professionals can find it hard to schedule regular visits, meaning that there is a delay in Daniel's fluoride varnish being applied.
I	Provide a conclusion about the question posed in the brief.	3	Conclusions must relate to the brief.
J	Present at least five appropriate pieces of referenced information from a variety of sources.	2	Provide references of resources used throughout project. Resources can be referenced throughout the project or provided in a resource list at the end of the project.