



Choosing a course to work in early years:

Level 2 or 3?

Introduction

You need to choose a course that's suitable for you and that you have the best chance of succeeding in. The short questionnaire that follows will help you make that decision. First, here's some background information.

Level 2 qualifications are the equivalent standard to GCSEs grades A* to C. They are for those who work under the direction of a supervisor, who haven't studied a relevant vocational Level 2 course and who may or may not have other qualifications.

Level 3 qualifications are the equivalent standard to A levels. They are for people who are working in a school either paid or voluntary and are capable of working by themselves without prompts, who have substantial experience and ideally have already completed a relevant Level 2 qualification.

Questionnaire

This short questionnaire will help you decide whether to study at Level 2 or Level 3. Select either (a), (b) or (c). Answer all eight questions.

Your professional work

1. In your current job which of the following describes your level of responsibility?

- (a) I'm responsible, for or in charge of, other members of staff.
- (b) I work alone.
- (c) I work under the direction or supervision of others.

2. In your current job, which of the following describes your job role the closest?

- a) I spend most of my time with the children in the setting.
- b) I spend some time with the children, but also carry out other roles eg administration help.
- c) I spend most of my time doing other roles and only part of my time actually with the children.

3. Rate your understanding of the EYFS Statutory Framework

- a) I can explain how my setting implements the Statutory Framework to a setting visitor.
- b) I am familiar with the Statutory Framework.
- c) I am not sure what the Statutory Framework does.

4. How much contact do you have with the parents of children in your workplace?

- a) I speak to parents of the children in my keyworker group regularly.
- b) I speak to some parents occasionally.
- c) I do not have direct or regular contact with parents.

5. How long have you been in your current job?

- a) Over two years
- b) Between six months and two years
- c) Less than six months

6. For how long have you worked, in total, in a registered childcare setting?

- a) More than five years.
- b) Between one and five years.
- c) Less than a year.

Your qualifications

7. What childcare or playwork qualifications do you have already?

- a) Level 2 qualification (s).
- b) Qualifications at a lower level.
- c) No qualifications in childcare or playwork.

8. What qualifications do you have in subjects other than childcare and playwork?

- a) Higher than Level 3.
- b) Level 3 eg A level.
- c) Level 2 eg GCSEs or the equivalent.

Your study skills

9. A distance learning course in childcare involves some extended pieces of writing. In some cases pieces will be up to 3500 words. Which of the following best describes your current experience at writing?

- a) I've written a variety of documents and am confident about writing a 3500 word report or essay.
- b) I contribute to plans, assessments and policy writing at work.
- c) I write letters and emails to friends and family.

Training

10) Training events for childcare staff usually take the form of day-courses or workshops. How many of these types of events have you attended over the past two or three years?

- a) More than three.
- b) Between one and tree.
- c) None.

Look through your answers and count up how many (a), (b) or (c) answers you have.

If your answers are mainly (a) it's likely that you are suitable for a Level 3 course.

If your answers are mainly (c) you should take a Level 2 course.

If your answers are mainly (b) or a mixture of all three you must think about your experience, level of responsibility and seek further advice before making a decision. You may be advised that it's much better to start at Level 2, build solid foundations and then move on to Level 3, rather than enrolling on a course which isn't suitable for you.