



All Childcare and Day Care Settings in Wales

14 January 2020

Dear Colleague

I am writing to remind you of the qualification requirements for staff working in registered childcare and daycare settings, including open access playwork and out of school childcare settings.

The National Minimum Standards for regulated childcare for children up to the age of 12 years (the NMS) state that all persons in charge of, and a proportion of non-supervisory staff working in, regulated childcare and daycare settings for children aged 0 to 12 years must hold a relevant qualification. This is set out within standards 13.6 (DC) and 13.7(DC) Day care.

The Circular Letter WGC 006/2017 <https://gov.wales/changes-national-minimum-standards-childcare-staffing-wgc0062017> gave settings that **came into registration** following the extension of registration from 8 years to 12 years a lead in time of 30 September 2021 for them to meet the relevant standards, as they had not previously been registered with CIW and subject to the NMS. It also gave **all** settings working with children between the ages of 0-12 years, both existing and newly registered, the same lead in time to gain the additional playwork qualifications required to work with children aged 8 and over. Therefore, by 30 September 2021 all persons in charge of, and a proportion of non-supervisory staff working in, all regulated childcare and daycare settings including open access playwork and out of school childcare settings **will** hold a relevant qualification.

**In line with paragraph 5 of Circular Letter WGC 006/2017 this letter does not apply to Childminders.**

SkillsActive's *List of Required Qualifications to work within the Playwork Sector in Wales* provides guidance on the required occupational qualifications for those working in the playwork sector with children under the age of twelve. It is available to download here:

<https://www.skillsactive.com/country/wales/list-of-required-qualifications-for-wales-playwork>

The Playwork and Education Training Council Wales (PETC Wales) have developed a flowchart which describes which qualifications are required for different settings and staff within these settings. The flowchart can be found at:

<https://www.playwales.org.uk/login/uploaded/documents/Qualifications/Playwork%20qualifications%20flowchart.pdf>

The *List of Required Qualifications to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector in Wales* is housed on the Social Care Wales website. This list provides guidance about the required occupational qualifications for those working in early years and childcare. It is available to download here:

<https://socialcare.wales/qualification-framework>

To assist you in meeting these requirements, the Progress for Success programme provides specific funding to support the early years, childcare and play sector to broaden and increase their skills levels. The programme and funding will support a number of pathways which will increase access to qualifications for employed people working in the early years, childcare and play sector across Wales.

The programme will support a Pathway to Playwork which will be available early this year. This will provide funding for people to undertake smaller awards which will complement and enhance the skills and qualifications they already hold.

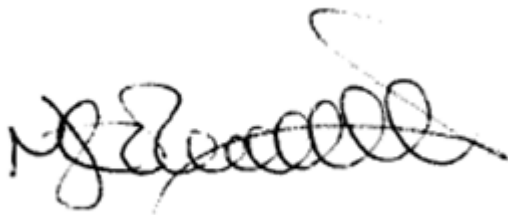
The programme is currently piloting Children's Care, Learning, Play and Development (CCPLD) and Playwork Apprenticeships to people working between 10-16 hours a week. CCPLD does not replace the requirement for a playwork qualification unless it is held with the Award in Transition from Early Years to Playwork.

<https://gov.wales/apply-funding-train-staff-early-years-childcare-and-play>

<https://gov.wales/funding-train-staff-early-years-childcare-and-play-leaflet-training-providers>

I ask that you take note of the requirements for your setting and encourage you to take action now as demand for training is likely to be high. By taking these steps, you will be working to ensure that staff, as set out above, hold relevant qualifications by **30 September 2021**.

Yours sincerely



**Nicola Edwards**

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Cc:

Care Inspectorate Wales; Social Care Wales; SkillsActive; Play Wales; CWLWM; AWARE; WLGA; Local Authority Chief Executives; Local Authority Play Co-ordinators; Local Authority Childcare Co-ordinators; Family Information Services