

# *Section 1*

## *Qualifications*

## Want to undertake a childcare qualification?

### Unsure of what to do next?

- Step 1 Decide on a childcare course that is suitable for you and valid in the type of setting you are working in...
- Step 2 Before you apply for funding please think carefully about whether you are committed to completing the qualification. Please consider if you have enough time each week to study and whether the necessary commitment can be made...
- Step 3 Checking the funding section of this Training Plan and the relevant level funding guide to see where funding is available from ...
- Step 4 If there is an alternative to Swindon Sure Start Partnership funding please explore this avenue first – if you do not qualify then please contact SSSP...
- Step 5 Details of Training Providers and SSSP funding amounts can be found in the Qualifications section of the plan and the relevant level funding guide
- Step 6 Contact your preferred Training Provider to enquire about starting the qualification. You may need to meet with the training provider so that they can assess your suitability...
- Step 7 Download a funding application form from the training pages of [www.earlyyearschildcare.org](http://www.earlyyearschildcare.org). Forms must be fully completed by both the setting & training provider before submission. If you do not have internet access – contact the Training Helpline 0845 602 3209...
- Step 8 Upon receipt of your completed form Swindon Sure Start Partnership will review your application...
- Step 9 A letter will be sent, informing you of our decision, usually within one month of applying.

Funding support cannot be guaranteed. You may want to contact the helpline on 0845 6023209 to find out if there is still funding available.

# Qualifications

## Level 1 Introductory Courses

### Swindon Childminders Pre Registration Course (Local Authority Approved)

Those wishing to train as Childminders in Swindon will be required to complete the **Pre Registration Course** for childminders. This new course replaces the old Introduction to Childcare Practice (ICP), which has ceased to exist.

On completion of the Swindon Childminders Pre-registration Course, each individual attendee will be able to:

- Implement the procedures to set up a home based childcare service
- Create a safe and healthy home based environment for children.
- Illustrate how home based childcarers can support the safeguarding of children in their care
- Manage a diverse range of routines and inclusive activities in their home based setting
- Evaluate the importance of working in partnership with parents and other professionals for all aspects of the home based childcare service
- Apply the principles of supporting positive behaviour
- Understand the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)
- Understand the processes and roles of the Team Around the Child (TAC) and the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Professional
- Understand the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS)

This course is the only local authority approved childminder course in Swindon. Once you have completed and passed the course:

- You will be able to register with Ofsted as a childminder – this **must** be within 6 months of completing the course.
- You will have achieved one unit of the Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People's workforce worth 4 credits.
- You will be on your way to becoming a member of the Stage One Network of Childminder's in Swindon, an indicator of quality. For further information on Childminding Networks please read the Network Documents on Trio's website, which can be found at:  
[www.triochildcare.co.uk/swindon/network.php](http://www.triochildcare.co.uk/swindon/network.php)

#### Course duration:

- Four sessions on Saturdays and / or evenings.
- A total of 16 hours of classroom study over 4 sessions.

- A total of 13 hours self study to include assignments, reading, gathering evidence etc.

**Dates:**

The course will run approximately every 3-4 months. In the event of a course being cancelled we will make every effort to re-schedule at the earliest possible date.

**Funding:**

For those eligible for funding SSSP will offer a contribution to the course fee, up to a maximum of £75.00.

**This is on the condition that you commit to going on to complete the Level 3 Diploma for the Children and Young People’s Workforce within two years of registering as a childminder. This means you are required to start the Diploma within 4-6 months of registering as a childminder. Failure to do so may result in you having to repay the funding you received.**

Full Course Cost	SSSP Maximum Contribution	You Pay
£122.00	£75.00	£47.00

Course fees & funding are subject to change

**Enrolment:**

Contact the Family Information Service at Swindon Direct on 01793 445500 or visit the Starting Up pages on [www.earlyyearschildcare.org](http://www.earlyyearschildcare.org) and read the ‘Information for Childminding Applicants’.

## Level 2 Qualifications

### Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce

This qualification is designed to help learners build the knowledge and skills needed when working with children and young people birth to 19 years of age.

**The Level 2 Certificate consists of 35 credits made up of:**

- 12 x Mandatory Units (a total of 31 credits)
- A selection from 15 Optional Units to make up the further 4 units required (5 at Level 2 & 10 at Level 3)

**Entry requirements:**

Learners should be at least 16 years old. There are no formal entry requirements but training providers may have their own guidelines.

**Funding:**

If you are eligible for alternative funding (such as Apprenticeship funding) the full cost of your qualification may be covered. Candidates must investigate alternative funding streams by either contacting a business link advisor on 0845 600 9006 or by discussing with their chosen Training Provider prior to contacting SSSP for funding.

**For full details on unit descriptions, SSSP funded units, approved SSSP training providers, SSSP funding and training provider costs please download the SSSP Level 2 Funding Guide and SSSP Level 2 Funding Application available from the Training Section of the SSSP website.**

[http://www.earlyyearschildcare.org/eyr-nav-courses-3/training\\_application\\_and\\_funding\\_forms.htm](http://www.earlyyearschildcare.org/eyr-nav-courses-3/training_application_and_funding_forms.htm)

**Enrolment:**

To enrol on this qualification or to obtain further course details contact your chosen training provider.

**Maximum time for completion:**

18 Months

## Level 3 Qualifications

### Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce

This qualification is designed to help learners build the knowledge and skills needed when working with children and young people from birth to 19 years

#### The Level 3 Diploma consists of:

- 4 x Skills for Care and Development shared core units
- 7 x Children and Young People's Mandatory Core Units
- 5 x Mandatory Pathway Units (There are 3 pathways available: Early Learning and Childcare, Social Care and Learning and Development – SSSP will ONLY fund the Early years pathway)

The above 16 mandatory Units add up to 49 Credits (details below). To achieve a Level 3 Diploma you will need to complete 65 Credits. The outstanding 16 Credits are made up with a selection of Optional Units

#### Childminders:

Please note that if you have completed the Pre-Registration Course for Childminders (Local Authority Approved) then you have already completed the 'understand how to set up a home based child care service' optional unit of this qualification. This means that you have already achieved 4 credits of the optional units and therefore only have a further 12 to complete (rather than 16).

#### Entry Requirements:

Learners should be at least 16 years old. There are no formal entry requirements but training providers may have their own guidelines.

#### Funding:

If you are eligible for alternative funding (such as Apprenticeship funding) you must investigate alternative funding streams by discussing with your chosen Training Provider prior to contacting SSSP for funding.

**For full details on unit descriptions, SSSP funded units, approved SSSP training providers, SSSP funding and training provider costs please download the SSSP Level 3 Funding Guide and SSSP Level 3 Funding Application available from the Training Section of the SSSP website**

**[http://www.earlyyearschildcare.org/eyr-nav-courses-3/training\\_application\\_and\\_funding\\_forms.htm](http://www.earlyyearschildcare.org/eyr-nav-courses-3/training_application_and_funding_forms.htm)**

#### Enrolment:

To enrol on this qualification or to obtain further course details contact your chosen training provider.

**Maximum time for completion:** 18 Months

## **New Level 3 Diploma in Playwork**

The newly developed QCF Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (NVQ) has now been launched, replacing (although not invalidating) previous NQF Playwork qualifications. This new qualification has been deemed full and relevant on the CWDC qualification list for those delivering EYFS and is aimed at those who wish to work with children aged 4-16 years within a supervisory playwork role. The Diploma in Playwork encompasses the playwork principles, and includes the role of the worker, health and safety, safeguarding children and young people, and supporting children and young people's play.

### **What to do next...**

SSSP would like to gauge demand for this new qualification and request that anyone interested contact Julie White at SSSP Workforce Development to register his or her interest in this qualification.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please note that going forward CWDC's qualifications strategy is still to support the simplification of qualifications. From a date, yet to be finally specified, it is CWDC's intention that only the QCF Certificate and Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce (Early Learning and Childcare Pathway), and any additional qualification developed to meet the needs of 16-19 year old college based learners (based on the Diploma for the Children and Young People's Workforce ), will provide occupational competence.

However there is currently no playwork specific pathway or playwork optional units within this qualification – we will keep you informed of any new information.

## Level 5 Qualifications

### Early Years Sector Endorsed Foundation Degree

In academic terms, this qualification is equivalent to the first two years of an Honours Degree. Your practice in the workplace will be assessed as part of the degree.

#### Modules covered include:

- How Children Learn
- Observing, Assessing and Reporting
- The Early Years Curriculum
- Working for All Children (inclusion)
- Working with the Family and Carers
- Protecting Children
- Managing and Working with Professionals

The course is either over two or three years depending on which training provider you choose to study with.

#### Entry Requirements:

You should hold an Early Years Qualification at Level 3 (minimum) and have at least 2 years experience of working in an early years setting. Please contact your chosen training provider for more details.

#### Distance Learning:

If you are undertaking a Higher Education qualification with the Open University you should apply for the units that you plan to study in the current financial year. However you must return with your funding application form, an anticipated timetable of course units/start dates that you plan to study to gain your full qualification.

#### Dates:

Courses start at the beginning of each academic year.

#### Funding:

100% funded for practitioners working in eligible Early Years Settings (including Childminders) - You must apply for grants from Student Finance England prior to applying for SSSP Funding - **please see the funding section for full details.**

You will initially be funded for 90% of the fees, Students are responsible for paying the remaining 10% of the fees – which may be reclaimed upon successful completion of the full qualification providing you are still working in an eligible setting.

**Level 5 (EYFD) will only be funded by SSSP if the candidate is committed to gaining EYPS and must start their BA or EYPS pathway within 12 months of completion of their EYFD, failure to start on the BA or a pathway may result in having to payback their funding.**

**Enrolment:**

To enrol on this course or for further information please contact your chosen Training Provider.

**\* Swindon Sure Start Partnership will pay 90% of your annual tuition fees direct to your training provider at the start of the academic year. Students will be responsible for paying the remaining 10% to the training provider. On successful completion of the qualification, students may claim the 10% fees back from SSSP.**

<b>Training Provider</b>	<b>Current Tuition Fees:</b>	<b>Swindon Sure Start Partnership Subsidy up to:</b>
Swindon College (2 years full-time or 3 years part-time) 01793 498914	Full Time £2900 Per year Part-time £900 Per year	100% *see above
New College, Swindon (2 years full time only) 01793 611470 ext 222	£3375 Per year	100% *see above
Open University Visit <a href="http://www.open.ac.uk">www.open.ac.uk</a> or Call 0845 300 6090	Various costs per unit	100% * see above

## **GCSE Maths & English**

To gain your Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) you must have GCSE Maths or English grades A\*-C

To register your interest in courses starting in September 2011 please contact Julie White by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011.

SSSP Funding is available to eligible practitioners committed to gaining their EYPS.

## Level 6 Qualifications

**Important Information regarding Level 6 – this paragraph is taken directly from the CWDC website**

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/qualifications-list>

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework specifically defines both Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) if gained in the Foundation Stage or Key Stage One as full and relevant qualifications at level 6.

Both EYPS and QTS (gained in Foundation Stage or Key Stage One) therefore fall outside the level 3 mapping process for the new qualifications list and are automatically considered to be full and relevant level 3 qualifications for the purposes of the EYFS.

Practitioners with QTS should, depending on the extent that their training specifically covers working with babies, toddlers and young children under the age of five, consider the need for additional training. CWDC recommends that Qualified Teachers without training in child development from birth to five should undertake EYPS.

Any queries pertaining to this should be addressed directly to the CWDC.

**+ Level 6 (BA) will only be funded by SSSP if the candidate is committed to gaining EYPS and must start their EYPS pathway within 6 months of completion of their BA, failure to start on the pathway may result in having to pay back their funding.**

## BA (Hons) Early Years Care and Education

This one year course is designed to provide Honours Degree status to students who have achieved a sector-endorsed Foundation Degree in Early Years or an equivalent qualification.

The Honours Year will be based on, and extend, the academic skills and pedagogy of the Foundation Degree programmes. Students will continue within their Early Years work settings and will prepare for longer-term management and leadership roles. The work-based learning element will reinforce the academic knowledge and understanding developed in the Honours Year.

The Honours Year will reflect current trends and enable learners to develop a broad understanding of Early Years Care and Education in a variety of

contexts. Students working with Foundation stage children aged 0-5 will be able to provide portfolio evidence against all of the Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) Standards which were issued in 2006, whilst completing practice-based subject units. The standards provide the baseline against which Level 6 staff in the Sector need to perform and will be the requirement for Early Years Practitioners in the future. On completion, students will be able to present themselves for assessment in order to gain the EYPS. A work-based research project provides an opportunity for students to apply and develop their research and project management skills in a setting-based, relevant and topical action research project, greatly enhancing their employability and ability to reflect on and adapt current practice. Students will also study units covering a wide range of management areas. These are designed to prepare them for future leadership roles in the workplace and give them an increased understanding of Early Years Care and Education in a management context.

### **Entry Requirements:**

Applicants will be expected to have successfully completed a University of Bath Foundation Degree or equivalent level 5 sector-endorsed qualification and will normally have achieved a minimum average grade profile of 55%. In all cases, consideration will be given to the applicant's potential to progress to Honours level. It will be the student's responsibility to identify and agree a suitable work-based learning environment with the Admissions Tutor / Programme Leader in which they can carry out the Work-based Research Project.

Applications will be considered in competition with others and based upon the number of places available. Admission will be subject to interview.

### **Dates:**

Courses start at the beginning of each academic year.

### **Tuition Fees:**

£3375	1 Year Full time
£672	2 Year Part time

### **Funding: + see page c.10**

100% funded for practitioners working in eligible Early Years Settings (including Childminders) - You must apply for grants from Student Finance England prior to applying for SSSP Funding - **please see the funding section for full details.**

You will initially be funded for 90% of the fees; Students are responsible for paying the remaining 10% of the fees – which may be reclaimed upon successful completion of the full qualification providing you are still working in an eligible setting.

### **Enrolment:**

Please contact Swindon College on 01793 498313.

## **BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies**

This degree course is designed for those who work or intend to work with children and young people, and for those who have more general interests in the interdisciplinary field of childhood and youth studies.

You will develop a broad understanding of childhood and youth in its social and cultural context. This will build on knowledge, insights and methods from the social sciences and humanities, as well as from studies in health, education and social welfare, social policy and children's rights. You can take a range of pathways through the degree course, according to your interest and plans for the future. The degree can extend your knowledge and skills in a specialised area of study such as child development, or it can have a more vocational leaning towards professional work with children or young people. By the end of it you'll know how and why our experiences and understandings of childhood and youth vary so much. You'll have the knowledge and analytical skills to understand and improve policies and practices that affect children and young people in a range of settings, and you'll also be able to draw on the skills appropriate to carrying out and reporting on small-scale research projects.

### **Dates:**

Course units starting throughout the year.

### **Course Fees:**

Various costs per unit.

### **Funding: + see page c.10**

100% funded for practitioners working in eligible Early Years Settings (including Childminders) - You must apply for grants from Student Finance England prior to applying for SSSP Funding - **please see the funding section for full details.**

You will initially be funded for 90% of the fees, Students are responsible for paying the remaining 10% of the fees – which may be reclaimed upon successful completion of the full qualification providing you are still working in an eligible setting

### **Enrolment:**

**Open University – visit [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk) or call 0834 300 6090.**

## **BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies**

### **Oxford Brookes**

You will begin by learning about how very young children grow and develop, both in the family and in different cultures. You will examine how toddlers make sense of the world around them through play and interaction with adults. Underpinning the theory is an important strand of practical hands-on work in which you may observe and work with young children in different settings. You

will benefit from our strong links to local settings and providers of early childhood care and education, through placement opportunities and a regular forum on early years research that is open to both students and local practitioners.

As you progress through the course, you will be able to focus on areas of study of interest to you by selecting from the diverse range of modules available. You will also begin researching into particular topics in early years education. Research interests of the staff cover a broad range of aspects including children's language acquisition, the nature of children's thinking; children and new technologies /media; outdoor learning, children's spirituality and children's identity. There is also a strong strand of research related to the understanding of professionalism and multi agency working in the early years.

### **University of the West of England (UWE)**

It will give you the opportunity to consider and examine human development from ages 0-8 including major learning theories, the development and implementation of social policy and ways children are represented in different cultures. A significant theme is the dynamic debate around children's rights. Contemporary study of early childhood invites a re-consideration of what it means to be a child, a parent, a carer and a human being.

The programme focuses on:

how children develop thinking and learning skills, what rights children have, the meanings of play, what childhood means, listening to children's voices, what is provided for children.

The programme does not lead to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). It will count as a qualification relevant to applying for Early Years Professional Status (EYPS).

### **Entry Requirements:**

Please check your preferred training providers website.

### **Dates:**

Courses start at the beginning of each academic year.

### **Tuition Fees:**

£3375

### **Funding: + see page c.10**

100% funded for practitioners working in eligible Early Years Settings (including Childminders) - You must apply for grants from Student Finance England prior to applying for SSSP Funding - **please see the funding section for full details.**

You will initially be funded for 90% of the fees, Students are responsible for paying the remaining 10% of the fees – which may be reclaimed upon successful completion of the full qualification providing you are still working in an eligible setting.

### **Enrolment:**

Oxford Brookes 01865 484848 [www.brookes.ac.uk](http://www.brookes.ac.uk)

University of the West of England (UWE) 0117 328 3333 [www.uwe.ac.uk](http://www.uwe.ac.uk)

## **Level 6 Status**

### **Early Years Professional Status - Graduate Leader**

A graduate lead Early Years practitioner is an essential component of the development of the early years workforce.

Early Years Professionals will provide effective leadership of practice across a range of early years provision. To be an Early Years Professional the practitioner will need to be a graduate with the commitment to improve early years practice – making a real difference in childcare settings to young children and their families.

For more information please visit <http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/eyps>

### **March 2011 Update - EYPS programme continues...**

The government has announced that the EYPS programme will be continuing in the next financial year.

CWDC is working with the Department for Education to progress a new tender for an EYPS programme, which will take into account important developments to be announced in the spring, including the review of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

**It is likely that the next intake for EYPS under the new arrangements will be in January 2012 but further news will follow as soon as it is available.**

## Level 7 Qualifications

### National Professional Qualification in Integrated and Centre Leadership (NPQICL)

This qualification seeks to provide leaders/managers and emerging leaders/managers of integrated centres with the opportunity to create an ethos of community partnership working by co-ordinating coherent and seamless high quality services for children and families. The qualification provides parity of opportunity in working within a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary environment, recognised and portable across education, health and social services whilst creating a platform for clear career progression routes and status in this professional field.

Two different routes lead to the award. The first is a study programme in which participants will work with tutors and colleagues through various modules.

The second route is a research programme, which offers those with appropriate qualifications and experience the opportunity to undertake a research project focusing on their own leadership role.

Both these routes are of equal status. The choice of route will be made with tutor guidance during the Introductory Programme, which consists of 4 separate days over the first term.

#### **Fees:**

The National College funds participants' fees for the National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership (NPQICL). Participants or their centres will need to cover travel and subsistence.

#### **Funding:**

Contact Swindon Sure Start Partnership for details of funding currently available for travel and subsistence.

#### **Enrolment:**

To look at the course in more detail please visit <http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/index/professional-development/npqicl.htm>