



Level 6 – Graduate or Early Years Teacher Leads education and practice

Early years qualification levels and what they mean

Everyone working with young children must have the right training to ensure they can support early child development, ensure children's safety and wellbeing, and support them to thrive.

There are three main levels of recognised qualification: Practitioner (level 2), Educator (level 3), and Graduate / Early Years Teacher (level 6).

Level 6 - What they learn

The minimum content required for the level 6 qualification includes learning about:

- advanced child development and how children learn
- how to plan and deliver engaging, high-quality teaching
- observation, assessment, and improving outcomes for children
- leadership and supporting other staff
- working with families and other professionals
- teaching early reading, maths, and communication skills
- adapting learning for all children, including those with SEND

Level 6 - What it looks like in practice

This means they will:

- lead teaching and curriculum across the setting
- support and mentor staff
- ensure high-quality learning and development
- often take on leadership or management roles

