

Apprenticeship Assessment Qualification Factsheet

Early Years Educator

Key Information

Qualification Title:	TQUK Level 3 Apprenticeship Assessment for ST0135 Early Years Educator
Qualification Number:	610/7782/3
Version Number:	TBC
Assessment Methods:	Mandatory: Observation with Q&A Option A: Professional Discussion or Option B: Case Study based on child study
Assessment Delivery:	TQUK Managed or TQUK Together
Grading:	Fail/Pass/Distinction
LARS code:	430
Maximum funding:	£7,000
EQA provider:	Ofqual
Available for registrations from:	01 November 2026

Qualification Purpose

This qualification prepares apprentices for roles in maintained and private early-years settings, developing the knowledge and skills to deliver high-quality education and care for children from birth to five years in line with the EYFS, including inclusive practice, multi-agency working, and support for children with SEND.

Progression Opportunities

Successful apprentices can progress to further qualifications, apprenticeships, and senior early years roles, or enter employment working with children from birth to five years across a range of early years settings.

Entry Requirements

Apprentices must meet the national eligibility requirements for apprenticeship programmes. Apprentices must:

- be 16 years of age or over
- live in England
- not be in full-time education.

Assessment Details

TQUK developed these assessments with employers, training providers, and experts, based on sector feedback. Assessments, including those undertaken on-programme where appropriate, take place only when the employer, provider and apprentice confirm readiness.

Subject to centre approval, TQUK offers a 50% partnership model with centre assessors, supported by a comprehensive guidance package for induction, standardisation, and delivery.

Mandatory assessment method: **Observation with Q&A**

- 60 minutes (+10%)
- Assessed in the workplace

Additional assessment method (the centre selects one option):

Option A	Option B
Professional Discussion • 60 minutes (+10%) • Assessed face to face in the workplace or via video conferencing	Case Study based on child study • Delivered through a 3,000-word (+/-10%) report • Case study conducted over four weeks.

Delivery Models

TQUK Managed	TQUK Together
TQUK delivers either the Professional Discussion or the Case Study, and the Observation.	Delivery is shared, with the centre choosing and delivering either the Professional Discussion or the Case Study, and TQUK delivering the Observation.

Overall Grading

Observation	Option A: Professional Discussion or Option B: Case Study	Overall Grade
A fail in any assessment component will result in a fail overall		
Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Distinction	
Distinction	Pass	
Distinction	Distinction	Distinction

Gateway to Completion

This is the final stage of the journey, before certificates are claimed. To progress to completion, centres will confirm that apprentices have:

- met the English and maths requirements in line with the current **Department for Education Apprenticeship Funding Rules**
- met the required off-the-job learning hours
- achieved a Level 3 Paediatric First Aid or Emergency Paediatric First Aid qualification
- demonstrated the required behaviours
- completed all assessments, with final grades recorded and confirmed.

Assessment Requirements

Apprentices may be assessed at any appropriate point during their programme, and assessments may be taken in any order.

Assessor Requirements

Assessors of TQUK qualifications should be occupationally competent within the last three years, demonstrate relevant, up-to-date CPD, and hold or be working towards a relevant assessor's qualification where appropriate. Those working towards a qualification must have their assessment decisions countersigned.

Professional Recognition

The Level 3 Early Years Educator standard provides DfE Full and Relevant status at Level 3. To count in Level 3 ratios, apprentices must also hold Level 2 English. Managers must hold, or achieve within two years, a Level 2 maths qualification in line with EYFS requirements.

Resits

An apprentice is permitted an initial assessment attempt, followed by up to three further attempts, which may take the form of a resit, resubmission or retake, depending on the assessment method and the reason for the additional attempt.

For apprentices who achieve a Pass on their first attempt, there is also the opportunity to make one further attempt to improve their grade to a Distinction.

For all sections, please see the qualification specification for further details.