

Using Childlink as a teaching and study aid for NVQ/SVQ Early Years Care & Education - Level 4.

Why should I use Childlink?

- **Childlink** is an innovative online database focusing on Legislation, Policies and Practices regarding children, young people and families who live in the United Kingdom and on the island of Ireland.
- Updated daily **Childlink** while being current also has an archive of over 1 million pages of information. Students are able to print pages from Childlink to include in their work without any copyright restrictions.
- **Childlink** provides information on Education, Welfare, Lifestyle, Justice, Benefit Issues, Youth Affairs, Health and Employment. Childlink can help save students and teachers research time as all the information has been gathered from various sources which can now be found easily in one single source.
- **Childlink** is tailored to provide information to those who work in a Child Care setting and who have a substantial degree of autonomy, covering a wide range of complex activities and be responsible for managing, training and/or supervising others.

What is the purpose of this guide?

- This is a short guide for those who have a high level of responsibility for managing or inspecting services. The role could also include the assessment and development of children. It is also suitable for people who hold a Management role in playwork.
- The sample questions in this guide are based upon the NVQ Accredited Structure for the NVQ in Early Years Care & Education, Level 4 and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) specification. However they illustrate how **Childlink** can be used in the teaching of this subject regardless of syllabus.

the one stop source for information on children, young people and families

When should I use the Search Facility of Childlink?

With over a million pages online the Early Years Care & Education examples below illustrate just how easy it is to use the search facility to quickly and accurately find a wide variety of information.

Example 1

There are many definition of Early Years but our preferred one for this guide is taken from The Edinburgh Council's Education Service Improvement Plan. To access this definition just follow these simple steps.

(1) What is the definition of early years?

- Enter **early years** into the search box at the top of the screen and select **Papers** from the **Categories** menu. Then press the **go** button.
- On the search results page click on the second entry entitled **Definition of Early Years** . This will enable you to view the definition.

Example 2

When undertaking a Qualification in Early Years Level 4 it is important that students have a substantial knowledge of the legislative context in which they operate.

These include:

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Children Act 1989
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Nursery Education and Grant-Maintained Schools Act 1996
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001

(2) Where can I find a copy of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child?

- Enter **UN Convention** into the search box at the top of the screen and select **Legislation** from the **Categories** Menu. Then press the **go** button.
- On the search results page select the first entry to view a copy of the UN Convention.

Example 3

Understanding of Child Development in all its aspects are crucial when undertaking this Level 4 study. There are many key documents covering a wide range of Child Development issues. The following documents are a sample of related papers which can be accessed on Childlink.

- Principles for early years education - The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
- Working Together - A Sure Start guide to the childcare and early education field
- Full day care - National standards for under 8 s day care and childminding
- The Effects of the Peers Early Educational Partnership (PEEP) on Children's Developmental Progress
- Communication, language and literacy - The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
- Physical development - The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

The above mention papers highlight Good Practice and should be studied alongside relevant Management Materials.

(3) Identify the principles of Early Years Education?

- Enter **principles of early years education** into the search box at the top of the screen and select **Papers** from the **Categories** Menu. Then press the **go** button.
- On the search results page select the first entry **Principles for early years education** to view the relevant information.



Search Tips

Childlink has over a million pages and has extensive information on all major topics relating to children and families. To maximise the use of this service we provide the following search tips.

- The searches in **Childlink** are not case sensitive so entering **EARLY YEARS** or **early years** will get the same results.
- **Childlink** sorts the results of a search in order of relevance.
- If you are unable to find the information you require online you may revert to our online request service where we endeavour to source such information within 24 hours.

When should I use the Regions search?

This search enables you to search regions that are relevant to your subject. For example:

Where can I find information on Safeguarding Children in England?

- In this case, a Region Search is ideal as there are documents on Safeguarding Children for each region in the UK.
- Enter **Safeguarding Children** in the Search Box at the top of the screen. Select **Papers** from the **Categories** Menu and select **England** from the **Regions** Menu.
- On the search results page select the first entry **Safeguarding Children - A Joint Chief Inspectors' report on arrangements to safeguard children** .



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Browsing the Childlink site

Childlink's strength is that it is easy to navigate the relevant archives relating to many topics in Family and Child Care. The Archives have been organised into six categories. They are:

- Welfare
- Education
- Health
- Justice
- Youth
- Employment

Each category has been set out in the same standardised format ensuring consistency and quick retrieval of appropriate information. **Childlink** operates a three click approach which ensures that students only need three clicks at any time to access the required information.

If you have any feedback about this guide or **Childlink** please contact Stephen Michael at stephen@childlink.co.uk.

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