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## Using Childlink as a teaching and study aid for BTEC National Diploma Early Years - Level 3.

### 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 designed for teachers and students undertaking academic qualifications in Early Years Services.

### What is the purpose of this guide?

- This is a short guide for teachers and students of the **BTEC National Diploma Early Years - Level 3**. It explains how to get the most out of using **Childlink** (<http://www.childlink.co.uk>), with subject-specific examples of the main features.
- The sample questions in this guide are based upon the Structure for **BTEC National Diploma Early Years - Level 3**. However they illustrate how **Childlink** can be used in the teaching of this subject regardless of syllabus.

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## **When should I use the Search Facility of Childlink?**

With over a million pages online the Early Years 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**

If you are looking for the definition of Child Abuse, Poverty, Domestic Violence, Social Inclusion, etc. just follow these simple steps.

#### **(1) What is the definition of child abuse?**

- Enter **child abuse** 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 entry entitled **Definition of Child Abuse** . This will enable you to view the definition.

### **Example 2**

When undertaking a Qualification in Early Years there will be several key documents which you may require.

#### **These include:**

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Second report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child by the United Kingdom - executive summary 1999.
- Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004
- 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 entry entitled **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** to view a copy of the UN Convention.

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### Example 3

Childlink provides an extensive range of material on the Protection of Children. It should be acknowledged that all such material stresses that the Rights of Children to be protected are paramount importance. There are strict Child Protection procedures in place in regard to Early Years in the Education Sector. These are:

- Protecting Children from Abuse: The Role of the Education Service
- Guidelines for schools to follow where an accusation of abuse is made against a teacher

### Example 4

Understanding of Child Development in all its aspects are crucial when undertaking this Level 3 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

### (4) Identify the principles for Early Years Education?

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



## Example 5

Childlink provides an extensive statistical database targeted at those undertaking Early Years Qualifications. The following are examples of the many hundred sets of statistics which may be of help to you when undertaking assignments.

- Births in England and Wales, 2002
- The Health of Children and Young People 1990-2001
- Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age in England: January 2004 (Provisional)
- Special Educational Needs in England January 2003
- At a glance - 2002/03 - Special schools and pupil referral units 2002/03 Childcare and Early Years Workforce Survey
- Children looked after by Local Authorities Year Ending 31 March 2003 Volume 1
- Children in Need in England: Results of survey week February 2003

## (5) How many Children were born in England in 2002?

- Enter **Births in England** into the search box at the top of the screen and select **Statistics** form the **Categories** Menu. Then press the **go** button.
- On the search results page select the entry entitled **Births in England and Wales, 2002** to view the relevant information.

## Example 6

Childlink is unique in providing a detailed archive of some of the most high profile and significant Child Abuse cases which have occurred over the past decade.

### These include:

- **The James Bulger Case**  
*Events surrounding the murder of James Bulger*
- **The Billie-Jo Jenkins Trial**  
*Trial into the death of Billie-Jo Jenkins*



- **The Victoria Climbié Inquiry**  
*Independent inquiry arising from the death of Victoria Climbié*
- **The Sarah Payne Trial**  
*Trial into the death of Sarah Payne*
- **The Milly Dowler Case**  
*Investigation into the death of Milly Dowler*
- **The Soham Murder Trial**  
*Trial into the deaths of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman*
- **The Bichard Inquiry**  
*Independent inquiry arising from the Soham murders*

## **(6) Where can I find information on Ian Huntley and the Soham Murder Trial?**

These Featured Cases can be found by selecting the Featured Cases link under the Archives heading at the left hand side of the screen. Select **The Soham Murder Trial** from the list to view all 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 **CHILD ABUSE** or **child abuse** 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.

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## **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 entry entitled **Safeguarding Children - A Joint Chief Inspectors' report on arrangements to safeguard children**.

## **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](mailto:stephen@childlink.co.uk).

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