

Platform 3:

Level 3 Award: Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication



The Communication Trust
Every child understood

Platform 3: Pilots

The Level 3 Award: Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication raises the skill level of the children and young people's workforce, increases the quality of provision and helps towards ensuring better outcomes for children and young people.

Background

In 2011 The Communication Trust, in collaboration with City and Guilds, developed a CPD qualification for people working with children and young people: the Level 3 Award Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication. This was in response to the growing body of research evidence which showed that the workforce was lacking in confidence to support children's speech, language and communication development and needs.

Platform 3 Pilot 2013-2015

In November 2012, the Trust successfully applied to the Department for Education (DfE) VCS grant scheme to pilot a model of delivering this Level 3 qualification via e-learning and assessment.

The proposal responded to the recommendations of the Nutbrown Review 2012, which highlighted the lack of access to high quality CPD for the early year's workforce, both in terms of cost and time away from settings. The review also emphasised that the quality of staff, in particular their qualification level, is strongly associated with good quality provision and better outcomes for children.

Platform 3 was piloted in 2013-2015 in partnership with the three Awarding Organisations currently offering the award: CACHE, City & Guilds and Apt Ed. Approved centres were contracted to deliver the Award to 230 early years practitioners.

For a copy of the full evaluation report authored by LKMco, please email enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

Evaluation of 2013-2015 Pilot

Platform 3 was funded to evaluate the impact on the following three areas:

- The quality of early years speech, language and communication provision
- Practitioners' effectiveness in working with children to support their speech, language and communication
- Early identification of children with delayed speech language and communication and effective use of the 2-year progress check

Of the 230 early years practitioners enrolled on the Platform pilot, **100%** of those who completed the pre- and post-qualification evaluation **felt that they were more knowledgeable, confident and skilled in:**

- Supporting the development of speech language and communication
- Identifying children who were struggling with this aspect of their development

For more information on delivering or completing this Level 3 Award through Platform 3, please visit www.platform3online.org.uk. Or register your interest by emailing enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

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Platform 3 for Childminders 2015-2016

Based on the positive findings of the original pilot, which was independently evaluated, The Communication Trust was granted **further funding from 2015-2016 to tailor the existing delivery mechanisms of the qualification to address the specific needs of childminders**, who often work in isolation.

Childminders provide over 270,000 early education places for 0-5yrs. As manager and leader in their setting they work closely with parents, often caring for a range of ages. An online delivery model can help childminders access high quality professional development, when face-to-face training can be more difficult to attend.

The *Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years*, PACEY, a CACHE approved centre, is currently delivering the qualification through Platform 3 to 100 childminders.

Evaluation of Childminder Pilot 2015-2016

An evaluation strategy is being implemented for the childminder pilot that addresses the impact of the Level 3 qualification through Platform 3 and in particular:

- Childminders' quality and confidence in supporting children and young people's speech language and communication
- Childminders' confidence in understanding and implementing recent changes to the SEND system
- Parents' views on how the qualification has impacted on practice
- Use of EYPP to improve the quality of the early years workforce in relation to supporting speech, language and communication through qualifications

The report will be available in April 2016.

What is Platform 3?

Platform 3 is an innovative, accessible and cost effective online learning route for delivering and undertaking the Level 3 Award: **Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication**.

Platform 3 offers a flexible approach to learning and assessment online so you can be supported by tutors to achieve your qualification at your own pace and in your own time irrespective of where you're based in the country.

We're currently working closely with training providers who will offer the Award using Platform 3 either entirely online or as a blended learning approach with some face to face or peer to peer support.

For more information on completing this Level 3 Award through Platform 3, please visit www.platform3online.org.uk

Or register your interest by emailing enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk

Interested in delivering the Award?

The Communication Trust are now offering approved centres and training providers the opportunity to subscribe to use Platform 3 as a model of delivery. If you are an approved centre/training provider and wish to use Platform 3 to deliver this qualification, please register your interest by emailing enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk