



Qualification Specification for:

OCN NI Level 2 Award in Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years

➤ **Qualification No: 610/1937/9**

Qualification Regulation Information

OCN NI Level 2 Award in Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years

Qualification Number:	610/1937/9
Operational start date:	15 January 2023
Operational end date:	14 January 2028
Certification end date:	14 January 2030

Qualification operational start and end dates indicate the lifecycle of a regulated qualification. The operational end date is the last date by which learners can be registered on a qualification and the certification end date is the last date by which learners have to complete the qualification and claim their certificate.

All OCN NI regulated qualifications are published to the Register of Regulated Qualifications (<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>). This site shows the qualifications and awarding organisations regulated by CCEA Regulation and Ofqual.

OCN NI Contact Details

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI)
Sirius House
10 Heron Road
Belfast
BT3 9LE

Phone: 028 90463990
Web: www.ocnni.org.uk

Foreword

This document explains OCN NI's requirements for the delivery and assessment of the following regulated qualification:

→ **OCN NI Level 2 Award in Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years**

This specification sets out:

- Qualification features
- Centre requirements for delivering and assessing the qualifications
- The structure and content of the qualifications
- Unit Details
- Assessment requirements for the qualification
- OCN NI's quality assurance arrangements for the qualifications
- Administration

OCN NI will notify centres in writing of any major changes to this specification. We will also publish changes on our website at www.ocnni.org.uk

This specification is provided online, so the version available on our website is the most up to date publication. It is important to note that copies of the specification that have been downloaded and printed may be different from this authoritative online version.

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About Regulation

OCN NI

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) is a regulated Awarding Organisation based in Northern Ireland. OCN NI is regulated by CCEA Regulation to develop and award professional and technical (vocational) qualifications from Entry Level up to and including Level 5 across all sector areas. In addition, OCN NI is regulated by Ofqual to award similar qualification types in England.

The Regulated Qualifications Framework: an overview

The Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) was introduced on 1st October 2015: the RQF provides a single framework for all regulated qualifications.

Qualification Level

The level indicates the difficulty and complexity of the knowledge and skills associated with any qualification. There are eight levels (Levels 1-8) supported by three 'entry' levels (Entry 1-3).

Qualification Size

Size refers to the estimated total amount of time it could typically take to study and be assessed for a qualification. Size is expressed in terms of Total Qualification Time (TQT), and the part of that time typically spent being taught or supervised, rather than studying alone, is known as Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

Qualification Features

Sector Subject Area

1.5 - Child development and well-being

[NOS - Children with Learning Disabilities](#)

Qualification Aim

The aim of the OCN NI Level 2 Award in Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years will provide Early Years practitioners with an understanding of the importance of positive support to children with a learning disability.

Qualification Objectives

The objectives of the OCN NI Level 2 Award in Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years are to enable learners to understand the following in relation to supporting children with a learning disability:

- terminology, legislation, policies, and strategies
- roles and responsibilities of Early Years practitioners including communication, possible barriers, and challenging behaviours
- challenges faced by families and related support services
- learning disability environments and learning improvement strategies
- sensory processing and the impact of exploratory play in an early year's context

Grading

Grading for this qualification is pass/fail.

Qualification Target Group

The OCN NI Level 2 Award in Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years qualification is targeted at learners who intend to or are currently working within the child development and well-being sector.

Progression Opportunities

The OCN NI Level 2 Award in Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years qualification will enable learners to progress to other higher level child development and well-being qualifications or into employment.

Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements however learners must be at least 18 years of age.

Qualification Support

A Qualification Support pack is available for OCN NI centres within the login area of the OCN NI website (<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/my-account/>), which includes additional support for teachers, eg planning and assessment templates, guides to best practice, etc.

Delivery Languages

This qualification is available in English only at this time. If you wish to offer the qualification in Welsh or Irish (Gaeilge) then please contact OCN NI who will review demand and provide as appropriate.

Centre Requirements for Delivering the Qualification

Centre Recognition and Qualification Approval

New and existing OCN NI recognised centres must apply for and be granted approval to deliver these qualifications prior to the commencement of delivery.

Centre Staffing

Centres are required to have the following roles in place as a minimum, although a member of staff may hold more than one role*:

- Centre contact
- Programme co-ordinator
- Assessor
- Internal Verifier

*Note: A person cannot be an internal verifier for any evidence they have assessed.

Tutors

Tutors delivering the qualification should be occupationally competent, qualified to at least one level higher than the qualification and have a minimum of one year's relevant experience.

Assessors

The qualification is assessed within the centre and is subject to OCN NI's quality assurance processes. Units are achieved through internally set, internally assessed, and internally verified evidence.

Assessors must:

- be occupationally competent and qualified to at least one level higher than the qualification
- have a minimum of one year's relevant experience
- have direct or related relevant experience in assessment
- assess all assessment tasks and activities

Internal Verification

OCN NI qualifications must be scrutinised through the centre's internal quality assurance processes as part of the recognised centre agreement with OCN NI. The centre must appoint an experienced and trained internal verifier whose responsibility is to act as the internal quality monitor for the verification of the delivery and assessment of the qualifications.

The centre must agree a working model for internal verification with OCN NI prior to delivery of the qualification.

Internal Verifiers must:

- have at least one year's occupational experience in the areas they are internally verifying
- attend OCN NI's internal verifier training if not already completed

Internal verifiers are required to:

- support tutors and assessors
- sample assessments according to the centre's sampling strategy
- ensure tasks are appropriate to the level being assessed
- maintain up-to-date records supporting the verification of assessment and learner achievement

Structure and Content

OCN NI Level 2 Award in Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years

To achieve the OCN NI Level 2 Award in Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years learners must successfully complete the one unit – 3 credits.

Total Qualification Time (TQT) for this qualification: 30 hours

Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for this qualification: 24 hours

Unit Reference Number	OCN NI Unit Code	Unit Title	Credit Value	GLH	TQT	Level
R/650/4893	CBG123	Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years	3	24	30	Two

Unit Details

Title	Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years
Level	Two
Credit Value	3
Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	24
OCN NI Unit Code	CBG123
Unit Reference No	R/650/4893
<i>Unit purpose and aim(s):</i> This unit will enable the learner to understand learning disability including terminology, policies, strategies, and the role and responsibilities of Early Years practitioners.	
Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
1. Understand learning disability terminology, legislation, policies, and strategies.	1.1. Describe key learning disability terminology. 1.2. Summarise current legislation, policies and strategies which protect the rights and support children with a learning disability.
2. Understand the role and responsibilities of learning disability Early Years practitioners.	2.1. Describe the role and responsibilities of a learning disability Early Year's practitioner to include the following: a) working within a multi-disciplinary team b) importance of consistency and teamwork c) dealing with sensitive subjects d) maintaining records and confidentiality e) promoting family wellbeing
3. Understand the challenges faced by families of children with learning disabilities and related support services.	3.1. Describe with examples at least two different challenges faced by families of children with learning disabilities. 3.2. Outline different regional and national supports services.
4. Understand learning disability environments and strategies to improve learning for children with a learning disability.	4.1. Describe the importance of a risk assessment within a learning disability environment. 4.2. Describe how to create an inclusive environment for at least two different children with different learning disabilities to include physical and visual structure. 4.3. Describe the importance of zoning within a learning disability environment.
5. Understand sensory processing and the impact of exploratory play in an early year's context.	5.1. Summarise the seven senses and the impact of the following on early years learning: a) barriers b) impairment 5.2. Describe what is meant by sensory processing disorder, its impact on children and how different support approaches may be applied. 5.3. Describe how exploratory play may encourage and promote learning within the early years.

<p>6. Understand communication, possible barriers, and challenging behaviours.</p>	<p>6.1. Describe different forms of communication. 6.2. Describe at least three possible barriers to communication and how they may be overcome. 6.3. Describe different types of challenging behaviours and why they may occur. 6.4. Illustrate with examples how to promote positive behaviour.</p>
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Assessment Guidance

The following assessment method/s may be used to ensure all learning outcomes and assessment criteria are fully covered.

Assessment Method	Definition	Possible Content
Portfolio of evidence	<p>A collection of documents containing work undertaken to be assessed as evidence to meet required skills outcomes OR A collection of documents containing work that shows the learner's progression through the course</p>	<p>Portfolio with written work from learners Record of observation Record of discussion</p>
E-assessment	The use of information technology to assess learners' work	Online questionnaire for learners to complete.

Quality Assurance of Centre Performance

External Verification

All OCN NI recognised centres are subject to External Verification. External verification visits and monitoring activities will be conducted annually to confirm continued compliance with the conditions of recognition, review the centre's risk rating for the qualification and to assure OCN NI of the maintenance of the integrity of the qualification.

The External Verifier will review the delivery and assessment of this qualification. This will include the review of a sample of assessment evidence and evidence of the internal verification of assessment and assessment decisions. This will form the basis of the External Verification report and will inform OCN NI's annual assessment of centre compliance and risk. The External Verifier is appointed by OCN NI.

Standardisation

As a process, standardisation is designed to ensure consistency and promote good practice in understanding and the application of standards. Standardisation events:

- make qualified statements about the level of consistency in assessment across centres delivering a qualification
- make statements on the standard of evidence that is required to meet the assessment criteria for units in a qualification
- make recommendations on assessment practice
- produce advice and guidance for the assessment of units
- identify good practice in assessment and internal verification

Centres offering units of an OCN NI qualification must attend and contribute assessment materials and learner evidence for standardisation events if requested.

OCN NI will notify centres of the nature of sample evidence required for standardisation events (this will include assessment materials, learner evidence and relevant assessor and internal verifier documentation). OCN NI will make standardisation summary reports available and correspond directly with centres regarding event outcomes.

Administration

Registration

A centre must register learners within 20 working days of commencement of a qualification.

Certification

Certificates will be issued to centres within 20 working days of receipt of correctly completed results marksheets. It is the responsibility of the centre to ensure that certificates received from OCN NI are held securely and distributed to learners promptly and securely.

Charges

OCN NI publishes all up to date qualification fees in its Fees and Invoicing Policy document. Further information can be found on the centre login area of the OCN NI website.

Equality, Fairness and Inclusion

OCN NI has considered the requirements of equalities legislation in developing the specification for these qualifications. For further information and guidance relating to access to fair assessment and the OCN NI Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations policies, centres should refer to the OCN NI website.

Retention of Evidence

OCN NI has published guidance for centres on the retention of evidence. Details are provided in the OCN NI Centre Handbook and can be accessed via the OCN NI website.

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