

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Guide to the New TASC Course



The new *Focus on Children* TASC level 1 course is a practical course that develops basic knowledge and skills required to interact appropriately with children and others in a range of child care environments, including the home.

Focus on Children provides a pathway to other TQA level 2 courses such as *Working with Children* and *Introduction to Sociology and Psychology*. It may also provide a pathway to an AQF Vocational Education and Training qualification in childcare, such as *Certificate II in Community Services/ Children's Services*.

At TQA level 1, the learner carries out tasks and activities that generally have a substantial repetitive aspect to them. Minimum judgment is needed as there are very clear rules, guidelines or procedures to be followed. VET competencies at this level are often those characteristic of an AQF Certificate I.

Teachers will continue to have the flexibility to make decisions about the sequence of learning, the emphasis to be given to particular areas of content and any adjustments required, based on the needs, interests and abilities of their students.

WHAT IS SIMILAR?

Students will continue to:

- Undertake a compulsory Practical Component in a child care environment in the community or may be delivered through other family and child related contexts.
- Complete a range of compulsory and elective units.
- Providers will continue to undergo a Quality Assurance process.
- Many of the studies are common with the syllabus it replaces; these include studies of the importance of play, guiding children's behaviour, safe environments and nutrition.
- Work Requirements are similar: a report, a set of practical resources and documentation of elective studies.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT?

- The course is now 150 hours.
- There is now an Access requirement to obtain the Working with Children Registration.
- Delivery time for each of the units is defined in a table in the course document.
- Course content has responded to TASC accreditation guidelines to ensure that learners undertake compulsory units in key areas of knowledge; these include *Safe Environments for Children; Child Development and Behaviour; Benefits of Play*.
- Elective units now include studies in *Communicating with Children and Families and Role Models for Children*.
- Learners complete 3 compulsory and 1 only elective unit.
- Proposed and compulsory content for each of the units is advised within the syllabus document.
- Work Requirements are clearly defined; descriptors have been provided to define requirements.

HOW DOES THE COURSE CATER FOR ALL STUDENTS?

- The course may be undertaken within the Senior Secondary environment via school providers or FLN.
- The course is inclusive of the learning needs of all students.

WHAT SUPPORT IS PROVIDED?

- A course supplement designed to support teachers new to or returning to teaching this course.
- Professional Learning to support course implementation.
- Advice on programming (scope and sequence documentation).