**Childhood Practice Award The purpose of the RPL Guidance and how it can be used**

**Guidance for candidates**

**Introduction**

The Childhood Practice Award is an assessment of your skills and knowledge according to the criteria established for this qualification. It does not necessarily need you to start from scratch however. There is already clear guidance about the credit that you can earn towards the award from recognised prior qualifications. **You may also use other prior learning from your past work and learning and development experience to contribute to your evidence for this award and/or for entry to the award in the first place.** The experience that you draw upon should not be too far in the past and you will need to follow the RPL guidance to use this prior learning to contribute to your Award. Before you begin to use the process you should familiarise yourself with the content of the Award at the level at which you are aiming to use RPL, or with entrance requirements if this is the way in which you are planning to use it.

**What does the RPL Process Involve?**

RPL enables you to apply prior learning and experience through a process of:

* Examination of prior experience using the Profiling Tool
* Identification of the learning and skills gained from this experience using the Profiling Tool and Reflective Exercise
* Application of the learning and skills from this experience to your current work through Reflective Exercise 2
* Production of a reflective account which demonstrates how prior learning and skills enable you to meet relevant criteria of the Award

The RPL guidance which follows takes you step by step through this process with straightforward charts to complete, enabling you to produce the final reflective account through a process of logical steps. It is possible to claim several criteria across more than one module in one reflective account.

**What support will I get?**

You should work with your course supervisor/assessor to identify relevant prior experience and to help you to work through the process. You will also need to discuss with your assessor whether and what evidence of your prior learning may be required so that it can be ascertained that it is at the right level for your Childhood Practice qualification, though professional reflective discussion and your written account may prove to be sufficient evidence.

**What are the advantages of using RPL?**

Using your learning from your past experience has the following advantages:

* It will enable you to appreciate the importance of prior learning and experience to your current qualification
* It will enable you to identify knowledge and skills that you already have
* It may save you repeating learning that you have already done
* It will give you the experience of looking at your past learning and producing a reflective account based on this
* It will enable you to identify knowledge, understanding, values and skills that can be transferred to new situations, rather than starting from scratch
* It will give you the confidence to value and use your prior learning from experience as you work through your Childhood Practice Award

**What kinds of experience may I use for RPL**

Almost any experience from which you have gained learning that is relevant to your Childhood Practice Award may be used for RPL. The examples provided illustrate the RPL process in relation to using leadership skills to address gender issues in a nursery, and taking part in an action learning set for lead practitioners in a local area. Other examples may include: previous experience of preparing inspection reports; facilitating a discussion group to encourage use of the Continuous Learning Framework (CLF) in a team; the use of previous learning from an NNEB award. This is by no means an exhaustive list and you may well have different examples of your own. It is useful to make a list of prior experiences that you may wish to draw upon for RPL.

Now you are ready to start the RPL process.

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