

Introduction**What is this unit about?**

This unit is about developing parents' confidence and practical parenting skills, enabling them to support their children's care and development effectively and in doing so support and empower the family.

Who is this unit for?

This unit is for you if you work in a setting or service whose main purpose is to support the care, learning and development of children in partnership with their families. This unit will be useful for practitioners working with parents in different settings, but particularly for those whose focus is on developing children through supporting their parents.

Principles and values

You must work within the principles and values of the sector in order to achieve this unit.

Content of unit

The elements are:

1. Promote parents' self-confidence in the parenting role
2. Encourage parents to relate positively to their children
3. Support parents in play activities with their children
4. Support parents in accessing information and community support

Place in the NVQ/SVQ framework

This unit is a group 2 option unit in the Level 3 NVQ/SVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development.

Links to Key and Core Skills

This unit may provide evidence for the following:

Key Skills	Core Skills
Communication: 1.1, 2.2	Communication: Intermediate 1

What we mean by some of the words used in this unit

Families	Includes parents and carers and extended and chosen families who contribute significantly to the well-being of individual children and who may or may not have legal responsibility
Parents	Those (fathers and mothers) who have formally and legally acknowledged parental responsibility for the continuous care and well-being of the child in question, whether biologically related or not

The National Standard**Element CCLD 322.1 Promote parents' self confidence in the parenting role****Performance criteria**

This is the national standard which you must meet:

1. Communicate with parents in ways that help them recognise, understand and accept their feelings and own needs
2. Establish and develop open and trusting relationships with parents
3. Encourage parents to develop skills, support networks and resilience to cope with the emotional demands of parenting
4. Provide a supportive environment in which parents are able to discuss any difficulties with parenting safely and in confidence
5. Acknowledge the universal difficulties experienced when parenting, the diversity in patterns of parenting and that sometimes there are particular pressures
6. Encourage parents to recognise and value the significance of their contributions to children's development, care and well-being
7. Provide opportunities for parents to discuss their perceptions of their children's characteristics and behaviour
8. Involve parents in the assessment of their children's needs

The National Standard**Element CCLD 322.2 Encourage parents to relate positively to their children****Performance criteria**

This is the national standard which you must meet:

1. Provide information and help parents access additional information about child development
2. Encourage parents to develop realistic expectations of their children's behaviour, progress and individual needs
3. Help parents to identify agreed limits and boundaries for children's behaviour, involving and consulting children according to the child's age, needs and abilities
4. Assist parents to identify flexible strategies for promoting positive behaviour that do not involve physical punishment or humiliate and degrade the child
5. Demonstrate a non-judgmental attitude when parents express negative and difficult feelings about their children
6. Help parents to recognise and value their child's individual characteristics and capabilities
7. Identify, acknowledge and promote the positive aspects of parents' relationship and interactions with their children

The National Standard**Element CCLD 322.3 Support parents in play activities with their children****Performance criteria**

This is the national standard which you must meet:

1. Help parents to recognise the value and importance of play to children's development
2. Emphasise the exploratory nature of play to parents and the contribution this makes to development
3. Help parents and children to identify opportunities for sharing play and activities together
4. Encourage parents to consider a wide range of activities including non-stereotypical opportunities and experiences
5. Encourage parents to become involved in their children's play activities in ways that enhance their development and extend skills and capabilities
6. Discuss and emphasise the enjoyable nature of play for adults and children
7. Help parents to identify resources and opportunities for play during everyday activities
8. Help parents to recognise the contribution of play in reinforcing positive relationships with their children

The National Standard**Element CCLD 322.4 Support parents in accessing information and community support****Performance criteria**

This is the national standard which you must meet:

1. Help parents to identify sources of useful information and support for parenting
2. Help parents to identify local facilities that support parents and children
3. Help parents to identify local resources to support play and learning with their children
4. Help parents to identify and access agencies providing community support
5. Provide parents with accurate and up-to-date information about professional services provided locally
6. Assist parents to access local services, resources and facilities
7. Encourage parents to share information about local services, resources and facilities with other parents

What you must know and understand

To be competent in this unit, you must know and understand the following:

K3C551

How you establish and develop open and trusting relationships with parents and why this is important

K3D552	The importance of involving parents in the assessment of their children's needs and how you might do this
K3D553	How to identify, acknowledge and promote the positive aspects of parents' management of their children and how you help parents to recognise the value and significance of their contributions
K3D554	Why it is important to provide an environment in which parents are able to discuss their difficulties, and how to create this
K3C555	How parents might build up skills to deal with their own feelings, such as assertiveness, talking through problems, negotiation, developing support networks
K3D556	Strategies that are available for the promotion of positive behaviour, that do not involve physical punishment or humiliating children and are sensitive to the level of challenge in the child's behaviour
K3D481	The link between parental/family expectations for their children, their own childhood experiences and knowledge of child development
K3C558	How to demonstrate a non-judgmental attitude when parents express negative and difficult feelings
K3D559	The link between children's play, learning and development, the importance of allowing children to play and how this information is best shared and negotiated with parents
K3D560	How you can encourage parents to become involved in children's play activities and identify resources that are easily available
K3H561	How you raise awareness with parents of the range of common safety issues that may affect their children inside and outside the home, according to the child's age, needs and abilities
K3D562	How you help parents to recognise and value their child's individual characteristics and capabilities and why it is important to acknowledge the positive aspects of parents' relationships with their children
K3P563	Strategies for coping when the pressures of parenting seem overwhelming
K3D564	Why it is important to encourage parents to consider a wide range of non-stereotypical opportunities and experiences and strategies for doing this
K3M565	Knowledge of local facilities to support parents and children
K3D566	Where parents might obtain information about parenting and child development
K3M567	What agencies are available locally to support individual parents
K3D568	How increased confidence in the parenting role has positive benefits to the parents' own personal development and aspirations
K3P569	How to find out whether parents or other family members have a basic skills need in ways that are sensitive, how to work with them and signpost to sources of appropriate information