

Apprenticeship Assessment Factsheet

Early Years Educator



Key Information

Standard Title	ST0135 Level 3 Early Years Educator
Assessment Methods	Mandatory Observation 70 minutes, assessed in the workplace. Plus one of: Option A – Professional Discussion, Option B – Case Study
Assessment Delivery	VTCT Skills Managed or VTCT Skills Supported
Grading	Fail / Pass / Distinction
LARS code	430
Maximum funding	£7,000
EQA provider	Ofqual
Available for registrations from	01 November 2026

Apprenticeship Purpose

This apprenticeship prepares apprentices for roles in maintained and private early years settings. Apprentices develop the knowledge and skills required to deliver high-quality education and care for children from birth to five years in line with the EYFS, including inclusive practice, multi-agency working and support for children with SEND.

Progression Opportunities

Successful apprentices can progress to further apprenticeships, qualifications and senior early years roles, or enter employment in a range of early years settings working with children from birth to five years.

Assessor Requirements

Assessors should be occupationally competent within the last three years, undertake CPD and hold or be working towards an assessor qualification.

Professional Recognition

Successful apprentices achieve DfE Full and Relevant status at Level 3. To count in Level 3 staff: child ratios, they must also hold Level 2 English.

For all sections, please see the **apprenticeship specifications** for further details:
<https://www.vtctskills.org.uk/end-point-assessment/>

Gateway to Completion

Apprentices must meet the apprenticeship English and maths requirements and successfully complete a first aid qualification in line with the EYFS statutory framework.

Assessment Requirements

Apprentices may be assessed at any appropriate point during their apprenticeship and assessments may be taken in any order.

Assessment Details

Assessment methods have been designed with employers and sector experts to reflect occupational competence in the workplace.

Mandatory Assessment Method

Observation 70 minutes total. Assessed in person in the workplace.

Additional Assessment Methods

Option A

Professional Discussion

90 minutes, in the workplace or via video conferencing.

Option B

Child Case Study

Based on a child study completed over 6 weeks, with a 2,500 (+10%) word report.

Delivery Models

VTCT Skills — Managed

Your Apprentice,
Our Assessments.

VTCT Skills — Supported

Your Delivery,
Our Expertise.

Overall Grading

Apprentices who achieve a pass in all

Observation	Option A / Option B	Overall Grade
A fail in any component results in an overall fail		
Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Distinction	Pass
Distinction	Pass	Pass
Distinction	Distinction	Distinction