



Department
for Education



Teaching
Agency

Launch date 21 March 2013
Respond by 30 April 2013
Ref: Department for Education

Consultation on Teachers Standards (Early Years)

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The Government wants to make sure there is more great childcare available for parents and children. The introduction of Early Years Teachers (Graduate) will support early years providers to ensure those who work with babies and young children become increasingly skilled and professional.

The Teaching Agency has been asked to develop the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) in order to start training the first Early Years Teachers from September 2013.

The Teachers' Standards (Early Years) will underpin the training and assessment of Early Years Teachers. Trainees must demonstrate that they meet the standards to achieve the award of Early Years Teacher Status.

To Parents/Carers, Nurseries and Other Pre-School Settings, Local Authorities, Training Providers, Early Years Practitioners, Childminders, Schools, Teachers

Issued 21 March 2013

Enquiries To If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the Department on 0370 000 2288

e-mail: TeacherStandardsEarlyYears.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk

Contact Details

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's '[Contact Us](#)' page.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Government's publication '[More great childcare](#)' (January 2013) sets out the vision for quality in early education and childcare and includes the Government's response to Professor Cathy Nutbrown's report '[Foundations for Quality](#)' published in June 2012.
- 1.2 As well as the influence of parents and families, high quality early education and childcare, delivered with love and care, can have a powerful impact on young children. The evidence is clear that a good start in these early years can have a positive effect on children's development, preparing them for school and later life.
- 1.3 The Government wants to make sure there is more great childcare available for parents and children. The introduction of Early Years Teachers (Graduate) and Early Years Educators (Level 3) will support early years providers in ensuring that those they employ to work with babies and young children become increasingly skilled and professional.
- 1.4 Professor Cathy Nutbrown recently reviewed qualifications for the early education and childcare workforce. Her report, 'Foundations for Quality', was a timely reminder of the case for a more professional and more highly qualified workforce. The evidence shows that gaps in educational attainment between the weakest and strongest performers, and the well-off and less well-off, are already well-established before children reach school. The evidence also shows that graduate leadership is the best way to improve outcomes for young children.
- 1.5 The Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) was launched in 2007 as a route for career progression within the sector and for talented, well-trained graduates to enter the profession. There are now 11,000 Early Years Professionals (EYP) across the country and, in 2011, almost a third of non-LA run full daycare providers had one or more EYP's. These new graduate leaders are already having a positive impact on the quality of early education and care for pre-school children.
- 1.6 The Government wants to raise the status of the profession so that more high quality graduates consider a career in early education. Early Years Professionals have helped improve the quality of early education but public recognition of their status remains low. We will introduce Early Years Teachers to build upon the strengths of the Early Years Professionals Status programme. Early Years Teachers will be specialists in early childhood development, trained to work with babies and young children.
- 1.7 Existing Early Years Professionals will be recognised as the equivalent of Early Years Teachers.

2 Teachers Standards (Early Years)

- 2.1** The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Education & Childcare) has asked the Teaching Agency to consult on the development of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years).
- 2.2** The Teachers' Standards (Early Years) will underpin the training and assessment of Early Years Teachers. In order to achieve Early Years Teacher Status a trainee will need to demonstrate that they have met the standards.
- 2.3** The new Early Years Initial Teacher Training programme will commence in September 2013. Trainees will have to meet the same entry requirements as primary classroom trainee teachers – at least a GCSE grade C in English, mathematics and science, or equivalent.
- 2.4** From September 2014, trainees will be required to pass the same skills tests as classroom teacher trainees before they start their courses.

3 Aim of the consultation

- 3.1** The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on the proposed Teachers' Standards (Early Years).
- 3.2** The proposed standards build upon the existing Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) standards to further support the concept of teaching in early years while also ensuring they are suitable for work with babies and young children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The standards align with the Teachers' Standards for classroom teachers.
- 3.3** The eight standards are presented as separate headings, numbered from 1 to 8, each of which is accompanied by numbered sub-headings. The sub-headings, which are an integral part of the standards, are designed to amplify the scope of each standard. The numbered sub-headings should not be interpreted as separate standards in their own right, but should be used by those assessing trainees to track progress against the standard, to determine areas where additional development might need to be observed, or to identify areas where a trainee is already demonstrating excellent practice relevant to that standard.
- 3.4** The standards will be published in June 2013. Training providers will commence delivery of the new Early Years Initial Teacher Training programme from September 2013.

4 How To Respond

- 4.1** Consultation responses can be completed online at <https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>

by emailing: teacherstandardsearlyyears.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk

or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

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Sanctuary Buildings

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5 Additional Copies

- 5.1** Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at: <https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>

6 Plans for making results public

- 6.1** The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website in summer 2013.