

## ‘Developing Skills for Employment’ - new options at 14+

**NOCN has launched two new Level 2 qualifications which enable learners to investigate a range of career options.**

The Award and Certificate in Developing Skills for Employment differ from the most other employability qualifications in having generic units that can be matched to learners’ vocational interests, and do not require a work placement – although this can be used.

Further, the qualifications will help students identify progression routes, and allow them to ‘taste’ up to three vocational options.

### **Generic units**

Examples of the generic units are ‘Participating in a Vocational Taster’, ‘Use Tools and Equipment in a Practical Activity’ and ‘Developing Practical Skills and Techniques’. These have been written so they can be used in a wide range of situations.

For instance, ‘Participating in a Vocational Taster’ can be used to cover anything from child care to leisure to motor vehicles, and ‘Developing Practical Skills and Techniques’ is equally suitable for carpentry, horticulture or textiles.

Evidence for the units ‘Customer Service Skills’ and ‘Handling Payment for Goods and Services’ could be gained at an open day or craft fair, perhaps linked to an enterprise activity in which items have been produced to provide evidence for other units.

### **Qualification details**

The Level 2 Award and Certificate in Developing Skills for Employment both:

- Have the same list of units to choose from
- Can accommodate spiky profiles
- Have School and College Achievement and Attainment Table points (these have yet to be given on the National Database of Accredited Qualifications).

### **Qualification sizes**

- The Award is 6 credits
- The Certificate is 13 credits

### **Further information**

Further information can be found in the qualification guide on the NOCN website at <https://www.nocn.org.uk/qualifications/qcf-qualifications>

## Free ‘nesting’ aids flexibility

Centres now have added flexibility when registering learners on the already flexible and user-friendly Step-UP and Progression Qualifications.

OCNSWR has responded to requests by making ‘nesting’ on these qualifications free.

Nesting is the process by which learners register for a small qualification – an Award, say – and when they have achieved that, move on to a Certificate or Diploma and count the units from the Award to the larger qualification.

We know our centres find this valuable, particularly for Foundation Level learners, whose potential is often uncertain at the start of their course.

Until now, nesting has been costlier than paying directly for the larger qualification. This has resulted in some difficult decisions for tutors, who’ve had to balance learners’ needs with the cost of nesting the qualifications.

From 1 August 2010, there will be no extra cost for nesting qualifications. For instance, registration for a Level 1 Step-UP Award will cost £16 and for a Certificate £47. A learner who has achieved the Award and then registers for a Certificate will pay only the difference, £31.

**For more information contact your Development Manager**

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