

**DRAFT Defined Award Standards for
Child Health and Development for Pre-Nursing
(Minor Award, NFQ Level 5)**

Award Title	Child Health and Development for Pre-Nursing
Teideal as Gaeilge	[To be translated]
Award Class	Minor Award
Level	NFQ Level 5 EQF Level 4
Credit Value	15 FET Credits
Mandatory/Elective	Elective

Purpose

This award is intended to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill, and competence required to support the health, development, and care of children across a range of healthcare settings. It is designed to provide a foundational understanding of child-centred care within a pre-nursing context, integrating child development theory, holistic care practices, and professional responsibilities in clinical environments.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, learners will be able to:

1. Analyse key stages of holistic child development, including physical, emotional, cognitive, language, and social milestones, and interpret how these stages influence nursing care planning.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of developmental theory, current legislation and standards to support the needs of children across different age groups in healthcare settings.
3. Evaluate the impact of family dynamics, cultural background, and social determinants (e.g., poverty, housing, parental illness) on the health and development of children.
4. Implement safe and appropriate care practices for children in clinical and community settings, including hygiene routines, nutrition, infection prevention, and response to illness.

5. Demonstrate effective communication skills with children and their families, using age-appropriate verbal and non-verbal methods to support comfort, trust, and emotional wellbeing.
6. Facilitate therapeutic play activities that promote healing, expression, and engagement in hospital or care settings, with awareness of the role of play in holistic recovery.
7. Interpret and apply relevant legal and ethical principles, including child protection, consent, confidentiality, and professional responsibilities in nursing care for children.
8. Reflect critically on personal practice, demonstrating professional accountability, teamwork, and a commitment to continuous learning in child-focused care environments.

Access

To access programmes leading to the above awards, learners should have achieved the knowledge, skills, and competence associated with NFQ Level 4 in the areas of literacy, numeracy, digital skills, communication, and personal effectiveness.

Learners must be able to communicate effectively with colleagues in the workplace through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. This may be through a formal qualification or relevant life and work experience demonstrating equivalent learning.

Transfer

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to transfer to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the same level of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Progression

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to progress to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the next or higher levels of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Learners may be assessed based on their prior knowledge and experience. This must be conducted in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of the provider.

Specific Validation Requirements:

- Garda Vetting.
- Access to clinical learning environment (work base learning) with up-to-date equipment, fixtures and fittings, cleaning agents and materials, disinfectants, antiseptics, sterilisers, waste disposal and personal protective equipment.
- Access to an environment and equipment replicating the clinical setting (classroom).
- Work-based learning hours to be set in the application for validation.

Sector Specific Requirements:

- CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Assisted Mobility Training (Safe People Moving and Positioning Training) in accordance with current legislation and workplace health and safety policies.