

## Early Years CKA Participants' Guidance

### How long should my CKA take?

This will very much depend on how much time you want to spend completing it and your own background knowledge of Early Years (0-8 years) education.

### Do I need to read all of the resources?

We recommend that you read relevant sections of Development Matters to help support you to effectively critique an idea or concept. You may wish to choose one of the resources about reading.

### Could I refer to Primary and Early Years education?

The focus of your answers should be for Early Years Foundation Stage children, but your alternative Key Stage experience for your PGCE will be with Key Stage 1 or 5 – 7 year old children.

### What do we mean by Early Years?

There are lots of different definitions of Early Years (EY). Generally they refer to the 0-8 age group, but sometimes have a narrower definition e.g. 3-5 years. In England, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is from birth to age five. Teach First Early Years participants will train to teach children in the EYFS (from 2+ to 5 year olds) and Key Stage 1 (KS1) for children aged 5-7. They will also gain some experience of working with children in the 0-3 age group.

Government requirements for those aiming to achieve Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) include teaching and meeting the standards across two consecutive age-phases i.e. 3 -5 and 5-7 in this case.

This means that EY participants will be based with a class of children in Nursery (children usually aged 3-4, but increasingly with children of 2+) or in Reception (children aged 4-5 years) but they also do a 20 day placement in a KS1 (5 - 7 years) class and they have to demonstrate that they can meet the Teachers' Standards in KS1 as well as EY.

So Curriculum Knowledge Assessments (CKAs) for EY participants need to demonstrate effective knowledge for teaching in the EY because that is where participants will be based for most of the time, in addition to this they need to demonstrate knowledge for teaching in KS1 and being able to challenge our highest achieving Year 2 (7 year old) children.