

Platform 3:

Level 3 Award: Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication

What is Platform 3?

Platform 3 is an innovative, accessible and cost effective online learning route for delivering and undertaking the Level 3 accredited qualification: **Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication**.

It allows practitioners, from a wide range of backgrounds, to gain a robust CPD qualification in a vitally important area through an online route of learning, assessment and accreditation. This in turn enables settings and schools, through a better qualified workforce, to provide high quality support in relation to children's language and communication. As well as studying online, practitioners can also complete their assessment online, so learners can study and achieve their accreditation at their own pace, in their own time.

How does it work?

A Flexible Approach to Learning

Platform 3 incorporates a full suite of six units of professionally produced and quality assured online learning materials and portfolio tasks for assessment. They have been developed to appeal to varying learning styles and are available on PCs, laptops and tablets.

Where possible, materials on Platform 3 are learner led. This means that learners are guided to initiate their own learning through research, practice and reflection. A vast range of further information and resources are signposted to where appropriate.

Learners are encouraged to complete activities throughout their learning to put their knowledge into practice and prepare for portfolio tasks.

Although the materials are available and can be completed entirely online, they can also be used to complement face-to-face training, study or revision sessions as part of a blended learning approach.

Online Assessment and Accreditation

Platform 3 also allows learners to upload their work to the system for tutors to access and provide feedback specific to pieces of work aligned to the assessment criteria.

Tutors and learners have access to a private discussions area, and online forums are available to offer peer to peer support with tutor input where appropriate. For quality purposes there is a full audit trail of all communications between learners and tutors and Internal and External Verifiers/QA.

Aim of Platform 3

To ensure learners develop the appropriate knowledge and skills to enable them to:

- Understand the importance of speech, language and communication
- Identify the signs of those children who are experiencing difficulties
- Promote speech, language and communication development
- Explore ways to support children and young people who have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)

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The Communication Trust
Every child understood

What is Platform 3?

Advantages of the Platform 3

More Accessible for Learners

Whilst between 2011 and 2013 there were some approved centres offering the award through face-to-face training, demand was outstripping supply. Platform 3 responded to the recommendations of the Nutbrown Review 2012, which highlighted the lack of access to high quality CPD for the early year's workforce, both in terms of cost and time away from settings despite the fact that the quality of staff, in particular, their qualification level, is strongly associated with good quality provision; and also better outcomes for children.

Approved centres or training providers linked to Awarding Organisations are now able to utilise Platform 3 to reach the maximum number of learners regardless of their location. This is equally beneficial for tutors, internal verifiers and external verifiers who can also be based throughout the country.

More Cost Effective

Online learning can be more cost effective than traditional face-to-face learning as there is no requirement for many of the costs that are associated with this. Platform 3 eliminates many of the overheads associated with traditional forms of training; as a result, significant savings can be made.

Platform 3 enables training providers to offer training to individuals or smaller groups of learners from geographically diverse areas at any one time so cohort sizes are not dictated by venue size, location or potential cancellation fees. Approved centres can accept learners onto Platform 3 at flexible times to suit learners or centres themselves.

This makes online learning, assessment and accreditation a flexible, practical and accessible alternative to more traditional face-to-face training.

Structure of the Award

For successful completion of the Award learners must complete three units – two mandatory and one of a choice of four optional units. Each unit is 3 credits, apart from one of the optional units which is 4 credits.

Complete 2 mandatory units:

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| Unit 1 | Support speech, language and communication development | 3 credits |
| Unit 2 | Support children and young people's speech, language and communication skills | 3 credits |

Choose 1 optional unit:

| | | |
|--------|--|-----------|
| Unit 3 | Support the speech, language and communication development of children who are learning more than one language | 3 credits |
| Unit 4 | Support positive practice with children and young people with speech, language and communication needs | 4 credits |
| Unit 5 | Understand the speech, language and communication needs of children and young people with behavioural, social and emotional difficulties | 3 credits |
| Unit 6 | Work with parents, families and carers to support their children's speech, language and communication development | 3 credits |

The Award includes learning outcomes and assessment criteria focusing on both skills and knowledge.

In order for a learner to gain accreditation, they must develop and submit a portfolio of evidence demonstrating that they have met the assessment criteria.

For more information on delivering or completing this Level 3 Award through Platform 3, please visit www.platform3online.org.uk. Or register your interest by emailing enquiries@thecommunicationtrust.org.uk