

CRECHENDO are future focused



Crechendo Training, a London based training agency, have been in existence since 1990. They have been an approved CACHE centre since 2001, and are approved to run various awards in Playwork, Childminding and Professional Development. Crechendo were the first CACHE centre to use the recently accredited syllabus to run the latest Professional Development qualification from CACHE, the Level 4 Certificate in Managing Quality Standards in Children's Services (CMQS).

The CMQS award was accredited by QCA in April 2004. Crechendo Training completed their course in May, with excellent feedback and praise from all candidates involved.

CASE STUDY

The West London Learning and Skills Council contacted Crechendo Training, and asked them to trial the CMQS, from January 2004.

The group consisted of eleven candidates from varied children's services backgrounds, all who possessed level 3 qualification, which is essential to anyone hoping to undertake the CMQS. Development officers in Early Years and Playwork, After-School Club Manager, Nursery Managers, and a Childminder made up the initial group, including two male candidates and others of varying ages, cultures and job experiences.

All of the candidates involved were in positions of responsibility within their individual settings and found the course to be "very challenging and interesting" (Alice Lewis, Training Director, Crechendo Training).

The CMQS concept is to improve the professional development of candidates, who are at management level within childcare settings, to give them an opportunity to stretch their skills in planning, assessing and inspecting their current and future environments. In this way the CMQS allows childcare managers the chance to interpret what they learn into an active plan for their setting, to extend and work upon existing frameworks.

The teaching of the award at Crechendo was arranged to be "very interactive, and included lots of activities to underpin the learning" (Alice Lewis). This proved exceedingly helpful to the candidates in retaining the concepts that they were learning, and consists of two units, covering

Quality Standards, and Inspection in Children's Services.

During the course, an Ofsted inspector was present to assist. This was found to be "extremely interesting and exciting" for the candidates, to help them learn from his experience in aspects of the syllabus.

"[The course] is of real use as it makes practitioners really explore the concepts and the different schemes. They really concentrate on what is relevant for their setting and all the pros and cons. It was particularly useful having practitioners from both sectors on the course together" (Alice Lewis).

Crechendo are looking to the future. With the CMQS now approved at their centre, the prospect of using it as a focal point for their advanced learning and professional development expertise is paramount. They feel that interest in the course will be high, as it fills a niche in the market for childcare managers to further their individual potential, and in turn aid centres to improve and move forward in many new ways.



Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education

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