



To the CCCs and VCOs

**RE: Suite of 6 qualifications at NFQ Level 6 awarded prior to the introduction of the Common Award Standards**

Dear Chairperson,

At our national meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December, clarification was sought on the suite of awards at NFQ Level 6 that lead to a diploma in Montessori education awarded by individual colleges. The suite of awards at Level 6 typically includes the following:

- Montessori Cultural Exercises or Montessori Culture
- Montessori Language Exercises
- Montessori Mathematics
- Montessori Practical Life Exercises
- Montessori Sensorial Exercises
- Philosophy and Practice or Theory and Practice.

There is some variation in the actual component award title but this is acceptable.

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs accepts that these 6 component awards at Level 6 are equivalent to a Major Award at Level 6 for the purposes of the ECCE Programme.

This suite of 6 awards meets the criteria for pre-school leaders to have a minimum of a Level 6 Major award (or equivalent) in Early Childhood Education and Care.

Please note that this does not mean that this suite of awards is equivalent to a major award at Level 6 in any other context.

I hope this clarification is of help in dealing with queries.

Yours sincerely,

Mary McLoughlin,  
Acting Director  
Early Years and Child Well-being  
18/12/14