

Introduction

This booklet is intended to be a reference book for **Mentors and Assessors in Early Childhood Care and education (ECCE)**, in particular those who have trained with the OMNA- DIT/NOW Early Childhood Project. The participants were experienced **Assessors** in the area of ECCE and were further trained as **Assessors for APL (Accreditation of Prior Learning)** by the project.

The APL system developed by the programme is specifically for ECCE, but can be adapted to other professional areas if a similar core standard has been developed.

Training was preparation for both **Assessing and Mentoring** as it is understood that the same individuals fulfil both roles, often for the same Candidates.

The booklet is principally designed for Mentors and Assessors working with APL Cluster groups but can be used as a reference for working with individual Candidates. (see final page).

The terms "**Mentor**", "**Assessor**" and "**Mentor/Assessor**" are used as appropriate throughout the booklet according to where the text refers to each particular role although it is understood that frequently the roles will blend. Its contents are concerned with the roles of the Mentor, the Assessor and the Mentor/Assessor for those who already have a clear understanding of the APL process designed by the OMNA-DIT/NOW Project for Candidates working within ECCE.

The APL Provider's Guide produced by the OMNA-DIT/NOW Project in 1997 contains detailed information about the system of APL in ECCE and can be used in conjunction with this booklet. **The Guide to Essential Skills and Knowledge for ECCE** and the **Criteria of Competence** package are also available separately as part of the Core Standard Pack.

For background information about the Project, see the list of further publications as follows.

Further Information

Publications by OMNA DIT/NOW Early Childhood Project

- * OMNA - DIT/NOW Core Standard for ECCE
- * Portfolio Building Guide
- * Guide to Essential Skills and Knowledge for ECCE.
- * Criteria of Competence in signposting format
- * Learners Guide incorporating Flexible Learning Directory
- * General Information Booklet.

Accreditation for Prior Learning (APL)

- * Providers Guide
- * Mentor Assessor Survival Kit
- * Candidate Information Booklet
- * Portfolio Building Guide
(common to both APL and WBT)

Work Based Training (WBT)

- * Providers Guide
- * Mentor Assessor Survival Kit
- * Candidate Information Booklet
- * Portfolio Building Guide
(common to both WBT and APL)

Equivalence

- * Guide to mapping Equivalence for qualification, including Criteria of Competence in Equivalence format.

Final Report

This includes proceedings from Conference, **'Flexible Routes to Training and Qualifications'**, Dublin Castle, February 2000