

TEACHER CERTIFICATION FOR CHILD CARE CENTRE PERSONNEL:

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION:

Introduction

Following the MOE-MCYS' announcements made on 4 Mar 08, on improving the quality of pre-school education in Singapore. All new child care teachers joining the early childhood sector on or after 1 Jan 2009 have to meet the minimum academic, language and professional qualifications.

Teacher Training Requirements

New Child Care Teachers

(‘New’ teachers refer to teachers certified on or after 1 Jan 09).

By 1 Jan 2009, all new child care teachers joining the early childhood sector would be required to meet the following criteria:

Academic	Language	Qualification
GCE 'O' level credits (A1-C6) in 5 different subjects, including EL1.	B4 grade or higher in GCE 'O' level for EL1. Those with C5 or C6 grade would need to obtain a minimum band score of 6.5 in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) within 2 years of joining the sector.	Diploma in Early Childhood Care & Education - Teaching (DECCE-T) to be obtained within 4 years of joining the sector.

The above will apply to Mother Tongue Language (MTL) teachers, except that they will have to obtain a credit in MTL instead of in EL. For CL teachers with C5 or C6 grade, they would need to obtain a minimum advanced grade C (level 9) in Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK).

By Jan 2013, 75% of all child care teachers in each child care centre would need to be at least DECCE-T trained.

Existing Child Care Teachers

(‘Existing’ teachers refer to teachers certified as at 31 Dec 08 and have been issued a notification letter to establish their status and deployment levels).

Existing child care teachers holding the Certificate in Early Childhood Care & Education (CECCE) would be required to obtain the DECCE-T by 2013 should they wish to teach at the kindergarten levels (K1 & K2).

Issuance of Notification Letter

All existing child care centre programme staff would received their notification letters indicating the Category and Deployment Level of each teacher based on their current qualifications. Centre supervisors need to ensure that their staff are assigned to the correct category and deployment level based on their (i) academic, language and professional qualifications and (ii) year of entry into the early childhood sector (i.e. existing

teacher in 2008 or new teacher in 2009). Please refer to Annex B & C for more details on the Teacher Category and Deployment Level.

The original copies of "Notification of Categories of Teachers" letters are issued to the teachers by the Ministry and should be given to them. Child care centres are required to make duplicate copies for centres file, for licensing and audit purposes.

Application Procedures

To facilitate the Teacher Certification process, your child care centre must ensure that all programme staff (i.e. Centre Supervisor, Child Care Teachers including Language/Mother Tongue Teachers and Child Care Assistants) particulars in the Child Care Link System are up-to-date.

Supporting documents to be submitted

Application	Supporting documents
Teacher Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Cover letter <i>(Indicate the name and contact number of sender, centre's name, centre code, and a short summary of the intent of the mail).</i>b) Certified copy of NRICc) Certified copies of academic/educational qualifications <i>(including GCE 'O' and 'A' level certificates, diplomas and degrees (local and overseas) with transcripts and translations)</i>d) Certified copies of professional qualifications

Note: All certificates and documents sent in must be certified-true-copies. It is the centre's responsibility to ensure that you have seen the original documents before signing and certifying true copies to the duplicates copies. We wish to highlight that there will be legal implications should there be any discrepancies found during the teacher certification process.

Please submit all documents pertaining to Teacher Certification to:

Ms Belinda Kuek/Ms Karen Yu
Child Care Division
Professional Development Section
Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports
510 Thomson Road
#13-00 SLF Building
Singapore 298135

Fax No: 6259 8763

The Ministry will issue the child care centre programme staff with a letter of notification within 2 weeks upon complete submission of the documents. The notification letter will indicate the Category and Deployment level of individual teacher from Jan 2013 based on their current academic and professional qualifications.

Contact Us

Should you require further clarification, please contact the following officers:

- i) Ms Belinda Kuek, Child Care Support Officer
Tel: 6354 8909 or Email: Belinda_KUEK@mcys.gov.sg
- ii) Ms Karen Yu, Child Care Support Officer
Tel: 6354 8905 or Email: YU_Leng_Hua@mcys.gov.sg

**TEACHER CERTIFICATION FOR CHILD CARE CENTRE PERSONNEL
PROCEDURE AND WORKFLOW FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION**

Staff have to be employed by the centre and their particulars are reflected in Child Care Link System (CCLS)
(Website address: www.childcarelink.gov.sg)



CCC submits cover letter together with all the support documents and qualifications to MCYS for the processing of the teacher certification.

Supporting documents to be submitted:

- a) Cover letter
- b) Certified –true- copy of NRIC
- c) Certified-true- copies of academic/educational qualifications
- d) Certified-true- copies of professional qualifications



MCYS processes the certification and will inform centre on the outcome within 2 weeks upon complete submission of the documents

Reject



A letter will be sent to the centre to inform them that the staff did not meet the teacher certification requirement and will not be certified at any level.

Approve



The Ministry will issue the notification letter to the staff. Centre is to pass the original copy to the staff and make copies for its own record and filing.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION FOR CHILD CARE CENTRE PERSONNEL
CATEGORIES OF TEACHERS (2008)

From 1 Jan 2013, there will be two categories of teachers.

- (a) Level 1 (L1) teachers may only be deployed to teach pre-nursery and nursery classes.
 (b) Level 2 (L2) teachers may be deployed to teach any level (Pre-Nursery/ Nursery/K1/K2).

Category of teacher	Existing Teachers			
	Academic Qualifications	Professional Qualifications	Deployment level	
			now till 31 Dec 2012	From 1 Jan 2013
L2 (EL/MT)	Minimum 3 'O' level credits in 3 different subjects including EL1 ¹ /MT ²	DPE-T / DECCE-T	All levels (Pre-Nursery/ Nursery/K1/K2) (no change)	
L1 (EL/MT)	Minimum 3 'O' level credits in 3 different subjects including EL1 ¹ /MT ²	CPT	All levels (Pre-Nursery/ Nursery/K1/K2)	Pre-Nursery/ Nursery

¹ If the teacher has 3 or more 'O' level credits but does not have a credit in EL1, a minimum band 5.5 in IELTS will be required.

² Existing MT teachers need to possess an 'O' level credit in MT (For CL teachers without a credit in CL, a grade 9 HSK is required).

CATEGORIES OF NEW TEACHERS (2009)

With effect from 1 Jan 2009, the two categories of new teachers are:

- (a) Level 1 (L1) teachers may only be deployed to teach pre-nursery and nursery classes.
- (b) Level 2 (L2) teachers may be deployed to teach any level (Pre-Nursery/Nursery/ K1/K2).

Category of Teacher	Academic Qualifications	Professional Qualifications	Deployment Level
L2 (EL/MT)	Minimum 5 'O' level credits in 5 different subjects including a minimum B4 in EL1/MT ³	DPE-T / DECCE-T ⁴	All levels (Pre-Nursery/ Nursery/K1/K2)
L1 (EL/MT)TT ⁵	Minimum 5 'O' level credits in 5 different subjects including a minimum C5 or C6 in EL/MT	DPE-T / DECCE-T CPT / CECCE ⁶ Undergoing training	Pre-Nursery/ Nursery

³ EL teachers with C5 or C6 in EL1 and a minimum band 6.5 in IELTS will also be given L2 (EL) status. Similarly, CL teachers with C5 or C6 in CL and a minimum advanced grade C (level 9) in HSK will be given L2 (MT) status.

⁴ Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education-Teaching

⁵ Refers to temporary teachers. EL teachers are to attain B4 in EL1 or a minimum band 6.5 in IELTS within 2 years and/or DECCE-T within 4 years from the date of certification with MCYS. MT teachers are to attain B4 in MT or a minimum advanced grade C (level 9) in HSK for CL teacher within 2 years and/or DECCE-T within 4 years from the date of certification with MCYS.

⁶ Certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON TEACHER CERTIFICATION

(New teachers joining the early childhood sector in 2009)

1. What is the minimum requirement for a new teacher with local qualifications?

GCE 'O' level credits in 5 different subjects (including a C6 grade for EL1). Refer to Table A below for more details.

Table A: New Teachers with Local Qualifications

Criteria	Requirements	Remarks
i) Academic	GCE 'O' level credits in 5 different subjects (including a C6 grade in EL1)	Minimum Entry Requirement
ii) Language	B4 or better in GCE 'O' level EL1 OR a credit in GCE 'O' level EL and a minimum band 6.5 in IELTS*	Within 2 years
iii) Professional	Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education – Teaching (DECCE-T)**	Within 4 years

* Those with C5 or C6 will need to obtain a minimum band score of 6.5 in IELTS within 2 years of joining the sector. CL teachers with C5 or C6 in CL will need to obtain a minimum advanced grade C (level 9) in HSK.

** Those without a professional diploma will need to obtain a DECCE-T within 4 years of joining the sector.

2. What is the minimum requirement for a new teacher with foreign qualifications?

12 years of formal education (from Elementary level onwards); credits in 5 different subjects (including EL); and a 60% mark in EL1 or a grade B obtained in a National or State Examination.

Refer to Table B below for more details.

Table B: New Teachers with Foreign Qualifications

(Important Note: All documents submitted to MCYS have to be officially translated into the English Language by a certified translator from any legal institution from the applicant's country of residence or from the Supreme Court in Singapore. More information on the translation services available at the Supreme Court can be found at <http://app.supremecourt.gov.sg/default.aspx?pgID=50> or Tel: 6336 0644. The certification of translation should accompany all certificates and results transcripts.)

Criteria	Requirements	Remarks
i) Academic	(i) 12 years of formal education (from Elementary level onwards); <u>and</u> (ii) Credits in 5 different subjects (including EL for EL teachers / MT for MT teachers)	Minimum Entry Requirement

<p>ii) Language</p> <p>EL Teachers</p>	<p><u>From English speaking countries (i.e. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK and USA):</u> (i) the medium of instruction for their formal education is English; <u>and</u> (ii) grade obtained for EL1 in a national or state examination is equivalent to a 60% mark or a Grade B</p> <p><u>From other (non English- speaking) countries:</u> (i) the medium of instruction for their formal education (or Degree) is English; <u>and</u> (ii) a minimum band of 6.5 attained in IELTS (General)</p>	<p>Minimum Entry Requirement</p>
<p>CL Teachers</p>	<p>(i) the medium of instruction for their formal education is Chinese; <u>and</u> (ii) grade obtained for CL in a national or state examination is equivalent to a 60% mark or a Grade B*</p>	
<p>iii) Professional</p>	<p>Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education – Teaching (DECCE-T)**</p>	<p>Within 4 years</p> <p>Those with foreign early childhood related Diplomas or Degrees should submit their qualifications to the Ministry for recognition</p>

* Those with a 50% mark or grade C will need to obtain a minimum advanced level grade C (level 9) in HSK.

** Those without a professional diploma will need to obtain a DECCE-T within 4 years of joining the sector.

3. What does deployment level refer to?

Deployment level refers to the level that the teacher is certified to teach at (i.e. Level 1 teachers can only teach pre-nursery to nursery while Level 2 teachers can teach all levels from pre-nursery to K2).

4. What is the effective date for the deployment level of new teachers?

The effective date for the deployment level of new teachers is immediate [i.e. a 2009 L1(EL)TT teacher can only be deployed to teach pre-nursery and nursery levels] whereas an existing 2008 L1(EL) teacher will be able to teach all levels until 31 Dec 2012.

5. Are there any important differences between new entrants in 2009 and existing teachers certified in 2008?

Other than the academic qualifications differences, there are 2 important differences to note between new entrants and existing Level 1 teachers:

- (i) the effective date of deployment and
- (ii) training status for licensing purposes.

A new 2009 L1(EL)TT teacher may not be professionally trained at any level whereas all existing L1(EL) 2008 teachers would have met the requirement for CPT to be recognised as a trained staff for licensing purposes. Please refer to [Q4](#) above and [Table C](#) below for more details:

Table C: Differences between New and Existing Level 1 Teachers

	Existing L1 (EL/MT) Teacher in 2008	New L1 (EL/MT) TT Teacher in 2009
(i) Effective Date for Deployment Level	1 Jan 2013 (L1 teachers can teach all levels until 31 Dec 2012)	From 1 Jan 2009 (L1 teachers can <u>only</u> teach pre-nursery and nursery)
(ii) Training Status	At least CPT-trained (L1 teachers will be considered as trained staff)	May not be trained (L1 teachers undergoing training will not be considered as trained staff)

6. Do I have to submit my new teachers' particulars to MCYS for certification or can I just assign their deployment levels based on their qualifications?

All child care teachers need to be certified by MCYS through the child care centre. MCYS will certify the teachers based on their current qualifications and issue 'Notification of Category of Teacher' letters to the teachers through the centre. Existing teachers certified by the Ministry in 2008 should have already received notification letters.

7. What is the procedure for teacher registration/certification?

As notification letters are issued to individual teachers through the child care centre, they will first have to be employed by the centre and their particulars submitted in the Child Care Link System (CCLS). MCYS is working towards enhancing the CCLS to facilitate the teacher certification procedure. However, before the enhancement is completed, centres are still required to submit academic and professional qualifications of their staff (e.g. GCE 'O' Level certificates, DECCE-T certificates and transcripts etc.) with the NRIC numbers of the teachers clearly indicated to both the licensing and training sections for verification. All documents must be certified to be true copies of the originals. Please attach a cover letter to all correspondence and send the documents to:

Ms Belinda Kuek/Ms Karen Yu
 Child Care Division
 Professional Development Section
 Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports
 510 Thomson Road
 #13-00 SLF Building
 Singapore 298135

Fax No: 6259 8763