Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning, and Development: Practice and Theory

Extended Investigation
Unit 331: Investigating current issues in children’s care, play, learning, and development in Wales

Distinction Awarded

Learning Outcomes

Task 1	5	/ 9
Task 2	25	/ 30
Task 3	12	/ 15
Task 4	7	/ 14
Task 5	18	/ 20
Task 6	12	/ 12

Mark: 79 / 100 Assign Mark

Level 3 Children's Care, Play, Learning, and Development: Practice and Theory

TIMESHEET must be submitted with the candidates work

Centre Name/*Enw'r Ganolfan*:

Centre Number/*Rhif y Ganolfan*:

Candidate Name/*Enw'r Ymgeisydd*:

Candidate Number/*Rhif yr Ymgeisydd:*

Extended Investigation

The total time allowed must not exceed 15 hours. / *Ni ddylai'r cyfanswm yr amser a ganiateir fod yn fwy na 15 awr.*
The timed, supervised hours took place as follows: / *Cynhaliwyd oriau dan oruchwyliaeth wedi'u hamseru fel a ganlyn:*

Dates *Dyddiadau*			Time Allowed (15 hours) *Amser a Ganiateir (15 awr)*	
			Hours/*Oriau*	Minutes/*Munudau*
3	5	2022	3	28
4	5	2022	3	11
5	5	2022	2	49
10	5	2022	4	48
11	5	2022		44
		Total / Cyfanswm	15	00

I certify that the candidate completed this assessment **within the designated 15 hours** on the above dates. / *Tystiaf fod pob ymgeisydd wedi cwblhau'r asesiad hwn* ***o fewn y 15 awr dynodedig*** *ar y dyddiadau uchod.*

Supervisor's Signature/*Llofnod yr Athro:* **..... Date/*Dyddiad:*** 11/5/2022

I confirm that the evidence submitted for assessment has been produced by me without any assistance beyond that allowed. / *Cadarnhaf fy mod wedi cynhyrchu'r dystiolaeth a gyflwynwyd i'w hasesu heb unrhyw gymorth heblaw am yr hyn sy'n cael ei ganiatáu.*

Candidate's Signature/*Llofnod yr Ymgesiydd:* ... **..... Date/*Dyddiad:*** 11/5/2022

Topic 1

My topic: Research and evidence-based practice impacts on current legislation and government initiatives.

Research how current policy and legislation have informed changes in early years education in Wales.

Task 1

Within this assignment I will be looking at how evidence-based practice impacts on current legislations and government initiatives and the effects on CPLD.

Firstly, I am fascinated by the different initiatives and legislations that are made to support ccpld. I want to learn more about what legislation supports children and what impact these can have on CLPD. I will be looking into a variety of current initiatives and legislations and the impact these have in the early years of education within Wales such as social services and wellbeing act, 2014, The Welsh Network of Healthy schools, and the final one is Flying Start.

I will be researching how these legislations affect ccpld, others opinions on legislations and how they link to theories. I will then move on to speak about how the values and principles that underpin the current legislations and policies are used to support their CCPLD. How each of my chosen legislations supports agencies and organisations to work in partnership, and promote effective communication. I will explain how this promotes areas such as equality and freedom to participate and ensure that children's rights and needs are upheld to ensure the best outcomes for them, and ensure they have the opportunity to have a bright and successful future. I will be considering how the different theories impact practice in ccpld as a whole within settings. I will also be assessing how understanding the theories that link to my topic can be used to support practitioners' ways of working, linking theories and my

findings. Lastly, I will be reflecting on what I have learnt through this assignment and look into how I can use this new knowledge and understanding to improve my ways of working within my placement at a school setting as well as when moving forward in the work industry.

I will be using a variety of resources to support my research, for example I will use websites such as the official Welsh Government's webpages as this is a secure website. I will also collect information on my topic from books to widen my knowledge and understanding on this topic.

Task 2

I will be discussing how my topics support and promote ccpld, the effects my topics may have on the different sectors and the opinions of others on each topic. I will also look at how co-working within each legislation/ framework supports ccpld to ensure that children receive the best care opportunities possible.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 is an act that ensures the wellbeing and safeguarding of children is upheld in Wales. It works in partnership with a wide range of organisations and services such as the police, social workers and health care services to support the children and meet their needs.

Co-working within this act is extremely important as it ensures that all teams and organisations work the same (safe way) to ensure they receive the best treatment possible and ensure children's right to CPLD are withheld. Co-working is also important within this act as it encourages individuals within settings to become more involved in the design and delivery of their services for the children and young people which ensures children's needs can be met and aims for the best outcomes possible to promote a bright future and career. By organisations and teams working together as one whole they are more likely to uphold children's rights which ensures

children's needs and well-being comes first. For example, if any concerns were raised it could be identified and an action plan can be created as soon as possible to address the issue, promoting prevention and early intervention. This is positive to the child as it could for example prevent the child from harm, such as domestic abuse.

This act promotes children's independence and encourages them to take part in improving the care they receive by speaking up and giving their opinion on what they think should happen. This demonstrates to the children that opinion is extremely valued and promotes good health and well-being, as they feel respected and encourages them to become more involved in the planning for their learning.

This act ensures that children's needs are understood, seen and met by others to ensure that all practitioners are aware of their needs and how to meet these needs. It is extremely important that children's voices and wishes are heard by others to ensure they are aware and can work around this information within the act.

In my opinion the SSWBA (wales) 2014 is excellent at supporting CCPLD as they put support in place to ensure that children can feel safe and have every opportunity to do well within their education without any barriers preventing them from meeting their fullest potential.

All the feedback I collected regarding SSWBA (Wales) 2014 was positive. A child nursery worker I know believes that this act is extremely important as this promotes children's safety as it ensures that all the attention is centred on the child when making decisions, which allows them to have an opinion on what happens regarding their care and learning.

Whilst researching I also had the opportunity to ask a childcare worker what their opinion was on this act. She believes this act understands the importance of following and having awareness of health and wellbeing. It provides good protection and security when all workers know what they have to do. She also believes that it is good that they have prevention and early intervention strategies in place to ensure that the children can live a free and happy life.

Throughout my time researching I have looked into what theorists relate to my chosen legislations and initiatives. For The SSWBA (Wales) 2014 i believe Abraham Maslow best relates as Maslow's theory links to health and wellbeing as it identifies the basic needs of children such as safety needs and how they are achieved and fulfilled to the best standards. This theory shows how children can move on with their development and further their education and move up the Hierarchy when their basic needs are met. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs also shows the importance of protection from abuse and neglect to allow them to reach their self-actualization. Being aware of Maslow's theory supports others to see the importance of meeting the basic needs for CPLD to be effective.

The SSWBA (Wales) 2014 ensures that Human Rights are promoted. Human rights allows children to live a happy and free life with the freedom to have services they are in need of to meet their needs. If children receive the right treatment and have access to the right services that can give them this, they will have what is needed to meet all their needs and access the right support.

Next I will be speaking about the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools. Co-working within this initiative encourages workers to come together to provide children with the best start within their education and promote a healthy lifestyle for children and young people. This initiative promotes children's safety, good health and well-being. This initiative promotes children's holistic development, by working in partnership with

different services. One example of the services they work with is Public Health Wales to ensure promote good physical health and ensure that they recieve what is needed to continue and maintain good health and well-being. This in turn will promote children's mental, social and emotional well-being and health as they will feel happier and more active.

In my opinion I believe that this is an extraordinary idea as it looks at the different aspects that are needed to ensure a safe and nurturing environment that the children can use and also aims to ensure children have healthy and nutritious meals, physical exercise, hygiene, and safety by providing these in schools. This will promote effective mental health and well-being of the children as their basic needs will be met so that they can continue to develop and extend their learning, knowledge and understanding of the world around them. The WNHS puts preventatives in place to ensure that the children have good health and ensure good safety. All food that is given to the children is nutritious and healthy which is done to prevent obesity in children and encourage them to eat healthily.

I have collected others' opinions on WNHS from my work experience setting. Within my placement setting they follow this initiative to try and teach the children on how to lead a healthy lifestyle. They also believe that Healthy Schools are extremely important when promoting ccpld as it ensures children receive what is needed, such as a healthy environment for them to play and build on their physical, social, emotional and intellectual skills. This is an area which allows the children to lead their own play and learning and build positive relationships and friendships. Within this setting they aim to encourage children to bring in fruit each day as well as check to ensure they have healthy school meals and pack lunches.

The WNHS addresses the Welsh Assembly Government's 7 Core Aims. This initiative links to the 7 Well-being Core Aims as they encourage children to participate within

society and promote a healthy environment which promotes their health as well as supporting nature. This government initiative promotes and protects the holistic health and development of children across Wales. Which promotes all aspects within children's development. The World Health Organisation came to recognise the importance of meeting these aspects which supported the creation of this initiative to support the children and ensure a better and longer life for children by promoting good health.

Finally I will be looking at Flying Start and the effects this has on children and how this promotes ccpld. This programme aims to make a difference in the lives of children living in the more deprived areas in Wales for children up to the age of 4 years old. Flying Start is a service that provides support for children to ensure that they can have the same chances as other children receive. This ensures that children do not miss out on opportunities to further their development and learning due to barriers such as poverty.

Flying Start promotes Multi-agency working in order for the children to get the care they are in need such as working with schools, health settings and safeguarding services in order to meet their needs. This ensures that agencies and organisations work together to support the children. Flying Start provides support to the children when going through transitions in life such as moving schools, receiving free childcare, visiting the health visitor and information and support with parenting.

Next I will be looking at the opinions and thoughts around this programme, to see whether some agree or disagree with this programme and look into how others feel about Flying Start. Firstly, I believe that this programme is an excellent way to support the children that may not have had the same chances as other children. Children in more deprived areas across Wales will have better ending outcomes within all

aspects of their development. This service could support the children to have a brighter future and open up more career opportunities in the future.

I believe the Flying Start programme relates to the Children's Act 2003. This is due to the fact that all workers within the Flying Start programme must receive the necessary training and must ensure good communication and team working skills are present to ensure that children are provided with the best provision possible when meeting their development and learning needs. Flying start ensures that children receive free language and play programmes to provide them with the experiences and opportunities to extend on their learning and development, as well as receiving part-time child care services. This encourages parents to have the time to work and have the sense of relief by knowing that their children are in a safe environment.

Task 3

Within this section I will be speaking about the values and principles that are used to support the SSWBA (Wales) 2014. The act aims to improve the well-being of people who are in need of care and support, as well as to support the transformation of social services. They aim to improve the services provided and instead ensure consistent and high quality services in Wales.

The first principle to this act is voice and control. Having voice and control ensures the children are always put at the centre of attention when looking at the best ways to meet their needs. It is important that the children's voice is heard and have the control over aiming for the best outcomes to support them with achieving good well-being. Prevention and early intervention is ensuring actions are put in place to prevent issues from escalating, instead tackling the situation before it begins to have an impact on others. This ensures that the individuals can achieve with the right care and support that is needed for them. The final principle to this act is co-production.

This is encouraging individuals to become more involved in their own care, and participate in the design and delivery of their services.
The Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Scheme promotes, protects and embeds the physical, mental, and social health and well-being of the community, through taking positive actions. This was created to support practitioners with monitoring children's health, well-being and learning throughout the school year. They aim to encourage school settings to have control over aspects of the environment which can impact the children's health. The values and principles include ensuring effective communication between the organisations and agencies working within this scheme. This ensures that children can receive the care they are in need of to ensure good health and well-being, which in turn will support and improve their health and well-being. We do this in everyday practice by ensuring the environment is healthy, safe and secure. They should promote healthy eating and have time for them to participate in physical activities, with the aim to embed these into their every day routine.

Having good health will have a positive effect on all aspects of their development and improve their outcomes. Promoting good team work skills ensures that children receive the right support needed when caring for them, and that important information is shared with those who need to know. Working as a team ensures they have a safe environment for the children to explore and play in to protect them from harm. This ensures that children receive the support they need to fulfil their needs and aim for the best outcomes. This also ensures better communication and leadership to ensure that the children are given the best advice and guidance when leading a healthy life to promote good health and well-being. All children should be able to participate within the activities that are made to promote their physical development and ensure good physical and mental health through maintaining good fitness activities. Having freedom to participate ensures that children can be involved in the decisions made that can impact their health and

development. This is important as being involved in their learning promotes them to be more involved in the activities and have more opportunities and experiences they can learn from. All children should have the chance to develop and learn without having any barriers between them and meeting their full potential. Having the freedom to participate promotes social skills and development as they would have the chance to learn from others and form positive relationships and connections with others around them. Children's rights must be upheld. It is extremely important that children's rights are not breached, as their rights ensure their safety, health and well-being. By ensuring that their rights are upheld children will have access to a healthy and happy life.

Lastly, I'll be looking at the Flying Start programme. The first principle I will be looking at within this programme is multi-agency working. Multi-agency working ensures effective care within this programme for the children as well as their families. Multi-agency working is important as this ensures that there are a variety of services and agencies that come together to support the children and their families with meeting their needs and providing them with access to the services they are in need of to develop further. This ensures that the children can have the assessments they are in need of and the referral that they believe is necessary to ensure good health, development and well-being.

Task 4

Within this section I will be looking at how relevant theories, legislations or frameworks influence the practice in childcare settings. I will then move on to look at how the benefits of these and the effects they have.

Firstly, I will be looking at The SSWBA (Wales) 2014. This act believes that children deserve a safe, happy and free life. Children should be protected from abuse and violence to ensure the best physical and mental health and well-being to prevent

problems developing such as mental health disorders. I believe that this act links to the UNCRC. I believe this as both the act and the UNCRC ensure and promote children and young people's rights. Both ensure that their rights are upheld to ensure a happy and healthy life, which allow them to succeed and move forward and achieve their full potential. This act looks into the children's rights and finds the best way to support them with meeting their needs. This can be with providing them with assessments of their needs and referrals to ensure that they can access the support they are in need of. SSWBA (Wales) 2014 ensures good partnership and team working between the different services to ensure that all children's needs are met. The impact this has on their play ensures they have a safe, welcoming and secure setting to explore and learn from to support their further development and learning. There are many strengths to the UNCRC as they ensure that children receive the best start in life that is possible. This also ensures that children have access to cultural activities, and must not have to face problems such as discrimination regardless to their race, religion or abilities.

Healthy Schools in my opinion relates to the theorist Abraham Maslow and his theory on the Hierarchy of Needs. The Hierarchy of Needs resembles the stages that we are in need of meeting to allow us to move further and achieve self-actualization. Maslow's theory promotes Healthy Schools as this supports children to meet all of the psychological needs, safety and security needs. This also ensures that children receive what is needed to ensure they feel belonged and form connections to ensure they feel welcomed and safe within the environment. Healthy Schools ensures children recieve what is needed for them to meet each stage within Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs leading to them having the ability to achieve self-actualization and achievement. Maslow believed that achieving each level is what is needed for motivation and encouragement in order for us to meet our fullest. His theory also demonstrates the importance of ensuring that children have the chance to have healthy snacks and staying hydrated. The reason for this is to

ensure they have the energy to ensure better concentration, allowing them to learn more and extend their knowledge and understanding. There are many strengths to Maslow's theory on the Hierarchy of Needs. One of these include looking into different aspects of children's development, such as their physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs. Although there are some critics on his theory as people believe that his theory fails to take the social and cultural differences into consideration.

The Flying Start programme relates to the Healthy and Sustainable Pre-school Scheme. This scheme supports the basic principles and learning framework. This contributes to the quality of the childcare that is provided, and ensures that they meet the children's needs when providing the care and support. This scheme also supports parents with providing information and guidance on meeting their children's needs, and ensuring they receive the best care to promote the best outcomes possible. This supports children's learning by ensuring they have a range of learning and educational opportunities. As well as provided with the chance for leisure and play to allow them to produce child-led play which allows them to learn at their own pace and discover independently. Next I will be looking at the strengths of this scheme and the impact this can have on children. This scheme supports children as well as the staff members by ensuring they are trained and are aware of how to meet all the children's needs as well as additional needs. Another strength to this is this looks at a range of areas children need to care for to ensure good health and well-being. An example of these include hygiene, food and fitness, and their environments.

Task 5

I will be assessing how having the knowledge and understanding on related theories, current legislation and government initiatives in Wales can be used to bring changes to CCPLD provision in the 21st century.

I will look at the importance of why these are important when caring and supporting children. I will then move on to look into what settings use these legislation and government initiatives. It is important to be aware of the new developments to the practice approaches to ensure that we can support the children for them to meet the best standards and promote their abilities.

To start off I will be looking at current legislation and government initiatives in general. It is extremely important to be aware of legislation and the initiatives that support children, as these are created for many different reasons to ensure the safety and well being of children. Legislations and initiatives are created to protect children from aspects such as harm, to ensure their safety and needs. Safety measures are important to consider at all times when caring for children.

Legislation ensures that care settings complete safety assessments to ensure the setting is up to standards and there are no dangers that could cause harm to children. Safety assessments and measures are also done to ensure that there is a plan in place in case there was an issue to prevent any dangerous accidents. There are legislations in which support the staff to understand areas such as what is expected from us when providing the care and support. This includes how we should act in certain situations, what behaviour is expected and should provide the care. These ensure we are aware and can uphold our care duties and responsibilities and what course of action we must take if there are any situations where a child's well-being is in danger.

There are many settings that have to follow legislation and initiatives, this could be regarding the safeguarding of children, meeting children's needs, confidentiality and much more. Some of these settings include schools, childminders and hospitals. Schools and childminders must follow legislations regarding safeguarding,

confidentiality, safety, upholding children's rights and needs. Hospitals must follow the same legislations as schools, although they are in need of further training to ensure good health and well-being of children and young people. They have more legislation to follow as this is an environment in which some may have more complex needs to meet due to their health, and must ensure that the environment is to the best standards possible to prevent illnesses and viruses from spreading which could potentially cause great harm to a child's health. Being aware of new and developing approaches or legislations is extremely important.

Since working within a school I have come to see and understand the changes that have been made in the new curriculum for Wales. Which was created by different services and organisations to create better educational and learning opportunities. This ensures that children have a broader range of experiences that they can learn from which will allow them to extend on their knowledge providing them with the best outcomes possible with their development. This supports staff by providing them with more training opportunities to extend their learning, skills and understanding on how to give the best provision. This gives them a better look at what they are in need of teaching the children such as learning about healthy relationships and connections, safety online, and supports them to be flexible and use a variety of teaching methods.

Having worked in a school has given me the chance to see the difference legislations and initiatives can have on their ways of teaching and how effective they are. An example of this is the Healthy Schools Scheme. This scheme looks into all aspects that we need to promote to support children with developing to their furthest and promoting their cpld.

Having knowledge and understanding on the theories on children's development can support us in many ways. This can support us with understanding the different

needs that we must fulfil, the milestones and how we can promote children's further development. Theories support us with planning activities to further the children's development by applying their theory to our work, and being aware of how we can promote children further development within different areas. For example Janet Moyels believes that children are in need of a mixture of adult-led and child-led play and learning. She believed that children learn by adding little additions to their initiated play to support their holistic development. By trying out and applying different theories to our work we can find the best ways possible to support the children's learning, and discover new techniques to support our way of working and teaching.

Schools may bring theorists' ideas into their learning to support the children's development, knowledge and understanding. This may be bringing the Treasure Basket approach. This was created by Elinor Goldschmied, which only includes natural materials and objects. The Treasure Basket was made to promote children's sensory skills. As this will develop and improve their senses through exploring the objects, as well as develop physically. Such as hand-eye coordination. This encourages the work setting to provide natural materials and resources for children to use and discover new information independently. Using natural resources may also support children to ask further questions on the different materials, which promote their curiosity and extend on the topic.

Within my time working in the school I have seen how theories can link and impact their learning and when planning further activities to support the children to reach their full potential. They apply theory to their everyday practice. This is done by ensuring that the children feel welcomed and receive the sense of belonging. Ensuring that children feel belonged within the setting is an important step that Maslow children are in need of to develop and move further with their development and to reach self-actualization.

The legislation I will be talking about is The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This act ensures that all staff members within the setting and outside of the care setting uphold their responsibilities to ensure their safety as well as the childrens. This act ensures protection from harm and danger, and promotes a healthy and flourishing environment for the children to play and learn within to ensure good health and well-being.

This act aims to create a brighter, healthier and more efficient Wales to support the future generations and [provide the best outcomes possible for them. The first aim to this act is ensuring children do not experience discrimination, or treated differently due to factors such as their cultral beliefs, ethnicity, abilities or race. This is extremely important as discrimination can have a big impact on a childs development and is likely to push back on their confidence, self-esteem and affect them emotionally and socially.

Legislation is needed in school to ensure confidentiality, staff and members working with the school to support the children and young people to be aware of their roles and responsibilities within the child's life. Legislations also ensure that there are plans and support in place if there are any concerns on a child's physical and mental health and well-being. There have been many new legislations around the protection of children to prevent issues such as abuse and neglect, as this has a serious impact on them for their entire life, development and formulation of healthy and secure relationships.

One new practice that has come into force is being charged for hitting children. This new practice is for all in the child's life, including parents, family members, childcare staff, others that have parental or care responsibilities. A new law came into force which states it is illegal to smack, hit, slap or shake any child or any other form of

physical punishment. If someone is caught completing any of these punishments on a child they are at risk of being arrested and prosecuted for assault.

Legislations within my work setting ensure better and more effective working to meet the children's needs and aim for them to meet their full potential. This ensures protection of the children as well as their personal data that is needed to have an idea on their background and support them with their ways of working.

Task 6

Within this final section I will be reflecting on what I have learnt within the time of completing this assignment on the current policy and legislation that have informed changes in early years education in Wales. I will look into how I can use this information I have gained to benefit me and further my practice.

I have learnt and had the opportunity to develop a better understanding of many areas and the importance of legislations and policies within Wales. I have had the opportunity to look into a variety of different legislations, policies and initiatives that have given me a broader understanding and view on the importance and the difference these make to children and young people's lives. Before this assignment I didn't quite see how much theorists link to our everyday practice within the setting and how beneficial theories can be in areas such as planning further activities to promote children's development within the different aspects of their PILES.

This assignment has given me a better understanding of areas such as their principles and values of The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. For example I have learnt how important co-working is within this act when providing care and support to children. Co-working ensures that there is effective communications between the different services and agencies that work within this to promote good health and well-being in children. extremely important when caring for children as

this ensures that all teams and organisations work around the child to ensure they receive the best treatment possible, and ensure all of their needs are met. I have also had the opportunity to learn and see another point of view from gathering information and opinions from others to see if they feel the same about the legislation, policies or initiatives.

I have learnt that not many individuals are aware of the Flying Start programme which I believe should be promoted in more areas as this is an amazing programme and ensures that children within disadvantaged areas receive the same opportunities as any other child. This ensures that they can have the best outcomes possible with their learning, and will ensure more career pathways for them in the future.

This new information I have gathered throughout this can be used to improve my practice within my placement in the school, and support me further when looking for work after I have completed this course. This has made me come to realise how beneficial taking on further courses will support my practice as well as ensure that I can provide children with the best possible outcomes and give them the chance to succeed with the right support that will encourage them to go further and extend their learning.

This has helped me come up with more ways on how I can support children when it comes to planning activities and linking different theorists to these plans to see whether or not the task will provide the best benefits possible. Moving forwards I would like to go into working with children to extend on my experiences and learn from other workers. As well as take on courses such as learning makaton and eventually may go on to looking at extending my education in university.

I have already noticed changes that I have made within my practice in my placement, as I have more awareness of the legislation and come to understand better ways I can support children with their learning through aspects such as play and engaging in their play to build on their skills. I have been applying Janet Moyels approach to children's learning where I build on their initiated play in order for them to have independence with a little guidance to further their learning.