



Association for Professional Development in Early Years

<http://www.tactyc.org.uk>

INVITATION TO BID FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

‘New early years training and qualifications courses in England: experiences, issues and impact’

Following on from the success of our funded research on provision for Two-Year-Olds by Plymouth University and University of Oxford, we invite bids for the sum of up to **£12,000** for a scoping study exploring aspects of the impact, experiences and associated issues of one or more of the new early years qualifications/training: early years teacher and early years educator. Indicative areas to guide the study proposal are noted below. However, we are open to suggestions.

Indicative areas

- Contextualize the study briefly against existing relevant literature and policy in England in recent years
- Provide an overview of the nature of courses, who teaches them, the uptake of courses and by whom. How are they experienced by those involved? How is success monitored? How does this influence provision? How has provision of training changed with the new courses? What are the implications of the new course(s) on training for the sector?
- Consider what is emphasised in the training, what is not, how the training relates to trainees’ practice with children and families, and working with their colleagues from a range of multidisciplinary backgrounds.
- Consider the implications for career and professional development, reflective practice, resourcing and future provision.

Research sample: we are interested in training providers, students and staff working with students in settings involved in the training/qualification under scrutiny. The sample should represent the diversity of training including students, course delivery type and location. Qualifications, background and experience of staff preparing the students should also be taken into account.

Research methods should be ethical, valid, reliable, systematic and rigorous and engage with the experiences of providers, students and staff.

Required outcomes

- a. An evidence-based report with findings and recommendations suitable for dissemination amongst a wide range of politicians, professionals and policymakers.

- b. Production of a TACTYC Occasional Paper.
- c. Presentation of research at relevant events, likely to include TACTYC conference.

Outline submissions: a maximum of 2000 words (plus appendices), which should include the case for support with details of:

- intended aims, scope, research questions and outcomes of the research;
- methodology linked to research questions;
- timescale;
- ethical considerations;
- brief risk assessment;
- information about the researcher(s)' roles and their experiences

Appendices: CVs; breakdown of costs; potential referees

Timeline

Dates for bid submission: *between 1st October 2015 and midnight Friday 30th October 2015*

Study start date: 4th January, 2016

Report submission date: 1st October, 2016

Submit to tactyc.org@gmail.com with 'Early years training and qualifications study' in the subject line.

The successful bidder will be contacted by mid-November, 2015. Unsuccessful bidders will be contacted shortly afterwards.

Please note: we are unable to provide detailed feedback on bids. However, we will acknowledge receipt of all bids, so if you do **not** receive an acknowledgement, please contact us again.

Criteria for selection of successful proposal

Approach: Clearly defined? Meets/exceeds TACTYC outline brief? Sample? Methods? Adds to knowledge in the field?
Clearly defined researcher roles?
Reputation /Profile of research team in the field?
Expertise: Experience of previous research with similar focus?
Realistic achievable milestones?
Value for money /Added value

We look forward to hearing from you. Your proposal should be sent to Dr. Jane Payler, tactyc.org@gmail.com between 1st October 2015 and midnight Friday 30th October 2015 with 'Early years training and qualifications study' in the subject line. No tenders will be accepted beyond Friday 30th October 2015.