



## Qualification Specification

# STA Award in Aquatic Teaching – Baby and Pre-School Swimming at SCQF Level 6

## This qualification is accredited by SQA Accreditation

### STA Award in Aquatic Teaching – Baby and Pre-School Swimming at SCQF Level 6

Qualification Code: R876 04

Accredited from: 20/11/2024

Accredited to: 31/12/2029

### Unit Structure

This qualification consists of 2 mandatory units

Unit Title	Code	SCQF Credit Value	SCQF Level
Planning, Teaching, Assessing and Evaluating Baby and Pre-School Swimming	UM99 04	3	6
Baby and Pre-School Swimming Teaching	UN01 04	2	6

Contact learning hours: 37 hours

Non contact learning hours: 15 hours

### Total Notional Learning Hours: 52 Hours

---

### Qualification Delivery

The recommended delivery hours for this qualification are 24 hours, which includes direct teaching and assessing but excludes breaks.

The course may be run over 3 days, but can also be delivered over a period of weeks, with the minimum of each training session being 2 hours.

The ratio for this qualification is a maximum of 12 learners to 1 tutor.

## Introduction

Baby and pre-school teachers are able to seek employment in a wide variety of leisure facilities including private health clubs and school swimming pools through to large local authority leisure centres. As a baby and pre-school teacher, you would be responsible for planning, delivering and evaluating a series of progressive and fun lessons teaching babies through to pre-schoolers and their accompanying adult. You will be able to teach a range of aquatic and safety skills such as floating, rotation, water confidence and basic swimming strokes. You would be responsible for ensuring the lesson area and appropriate equipment is safe and promote good teaching and learning.

---

## Qualification Objective

The STA Award in Aquatic Teaching – Baby and Pre-School Swimming qualification aims to produce teachers who can teach aquatic activities, including paddle strokes to babies, toddlers and pre-school children during adult and child lessons.

They are able to deliver the STA Starfish programme and the STANley Series of STA's International Learn to Swim Programme.

---

## Target Learners

This qualification is for learners who wish to work with babies, pre-schoolers and their accompanying adults, and help them to develop, both as swimmers and individuals in the aquatic environment. There is no experience of working with children or teaching swimming lessons required. This qualification could appeal to parents looking for a career that fits in around their childcare commitments, those interested in pursuing a career in the leisure industry. Those already employed within a leisure environment who are looking to progress their career or those who are already working as a swimming teacher who wish to offer lessons to babies and pre-schoolers alongside their current beginner classes.



## Progression

Experienced baby and pre-school teachers can expand their baby and pre-school knowledge further by progressing to the STA Diploma in Aquatic Teaching – Baby and Pre-School.

Experienced baby and pre-school teachers are often employed as mentors for newly qualified baby and pre-school teachers, or take on the role of swimming co-ordinators within their swim schools. In addition, baby and pre-school teachers who meet the pre-requisites can share their knowledge and experience with the next generation of baby and pre-school teachers by becoming an aquatic tutor.

Alternatively, baby and pre-school teachers may move into teaching those with disabilities or beginner learners.

---

## Industry Standards

This qualification has been designed in line with the following industry standards:

- PAS 520:2015 safeguarding 0 to 4 year old children within the teaching of swimming, including any associated professional photography – code of practice
- STA Swimming Teaching Code of Practice
- CIMSPA Professional Standard: Population Specialism Working with Children 0 – 5 Years.

---

## Entry Requirements

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Hold the STA Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults certificate or acceptable equivalent (must have been completed within the last 3 years).

Learners undertaking this qualification in Scotland are required by law to have a PVG membership with the ATC they are taking the course with.

## **Special Considerations and Reasonable Adjustments Policies**

For further information on these, please refer to the policies section on the Safety Training Awards website:

<https://www.safetytrainingawards.co.uk/policies/>

---

## **Awarding Organisation Policies**

A full list of awarding organisation policies are available on the website:

<https://www.safetytrainingawards.co.uk>

---

## **Assessment Format**

Competent / Not competent.

## Assessment Methods

The STA Award in Aquatic Teaching – Baby and Pre-School Swimming qualification is tutor assessed through the completion of a scheme of work, lesson plans, lesson evaluation form and practical teaching.

In addition to this there is a final end course theory multiple-choice question assessment paper and an external assessment of practical teaching.

Learners are externally assessed teaching a 15 minute lesson to between 2 – 4 adult and child pairs.

All practical elements must be completed and performed independently by the learner without prompting by the tutor.

The skills within the course and during the assessments must be performed in line with the most current version of the STA Award in Aquatic Teaching – Baby and Pre-School resource manual.

The multiple-choice assessment paper must be completed in exam conditions, with the tutor or other approved person, acting as the invigilator. Learners must achieve a minimum mark or higher to successfully pass the multi-choice assessment paper.

All learning outcomes and assessment criteria in the units must be achieved in order for the learner to be deemed competent and pass the course.

Please refer to the STA Award in Aquatic Teaching – Baby and Pre-School Swimming Assessment Strategy for the detailed assessment process.

## Re-Assessment

If a learner is unsuccessful in the end of course assessment, then the learner is only required to re-sit the required element i.e. if a learner fails the multiple-choice assessment paper they are only required to re-sit the assessment paper.

If a learner should fail the multiple-choice assessment paper, they are only required to re-take the unit paper they failed.

The re-take of an assessment paper or a practical assessment must be completed within six weeks from the failure date. All retakes must be registered with Safety Training Awards.

---

## Tutor / Assessor Requirements

All tutors and assessors must have the skills, knowledge and experience to be able to teach, assess and demonstrate the subject.

Each tutor and assessor must be approved by Safety Training Awards and provide evidence of:

1. STA Award in Aquatic Teaching – Baby and Pre-School qualification
  2. Hold a formal tutoring and assessing qualification
  3. Maintaining their technical competence within the subject area and provide evidence of continuing professional development (CPD).
- 

## IQA Requirements

Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs) of this qualification must have knowledge and competency in baby and pre-school teaching as well as knowledge and competency in internal quality assurance.

An IQA must hold:

1. STA Award in Aquatic Teaching – Baby and Pre-School
2. Attend a STA / IQA training day or hold a recognised internal quality assurance qualification.

Note: IQAs cannot quality assure a course for which they were a learner, the tutor and / or assessor.

## Resource Requirements

- STA Award in Aquatic Teaching – Baby and Pre-School manual – Each learner is required to have their own copy of the resource manual to keep during and after the course, in order to have access to the theoretical knowledge of the qualification
- A range of adult and child pairs between 0 – 4 years old. In order to fulfil the practical teaching requirement, learners must have access to adult and child pairs throughout the practical sessions
- A range of suitable swimming teaching equipment:
  - Demonstration dolls
  - Toys
  - Play rafts
  - Woggles
  - Floats
- In order to fulfil the practical requirements of this qualification, access to an appropriate swimming facility is required on each day of the course. The facility should meet the required temperature and depth requirements for baby and pre-school pairs.

### Venue

- Room size: Adequate space for all learners on the course to undertake theory and practical work
- Seats: One per learner
- Writing surfaces: Adequate for each learner to take notes
- Toilets: Separate facilities for male and female learners
- Ventilation: Should be adequate
- Lighting: Should be suitable for reading, combining a mixture of natural and artificial light
- Heating: Should maintain a 'short sleeve' environment, minimum temperature 16°C
- Access / exits: Should be safe, well lit and cater for people with special needs
- Floor coverings: Should be carpeted or mats / blankets provided for use during practical sessions
- Cleanliness: Maintain a clean, tidy and hygienic environment
- Noise: Consider whether there is noise that may distract learners from training
- Electrical items: When projectors and other electrical equipment are used, the equipment must be checked to ensure it is in safe working order. It is important to be aware of trip hazards associated with electric cables in order to reduce such risks.