

Playworker

Level 2 Apprenticeship

Playwork focuses on creating and facilitating opportunities for play in various childcare settings. It is based on the understanding that play is a fundamental and essential aspect of a child's development, allowing them to explore, learn, express themselves, and make sense of the world around them.

The role of the Playworker

Playwork practitioners, known as playworkers, are individuals who are trained to support and enhance children's play experiences. They create environments that encourage and promote play, respecting children's autonomy, interests, and choices. Playworkers observe and interact with children during their play, offering minimal intervention and guidance to allow the play to unfold naturally. They create spaces where children can freely engage in play, fostering their physical, emotional, and cognitive growth. They are advocates for all young people's right to play.

Who is it for?

Playworkers can work in a variety of settings, such as Before and After School Clubs, Adventure Playgrounds, and Mobile Play Provision, for example a Playbus. They may also offer play sessions in Women's Refuges, Prisons and Hospitals, as well as play ranger sessions in open spaces such as parks and woodlands. Playschemes are also offered in sport and leisure centres.

What will I learn?

The key principles of playwork include: Adventurous Play, Inclusivity, Risk-Benefit Assessment, Child-Led Play, Playful Environment, Observation and Reflection, Supporting Play Types. Playworkers will learn how to effectively work as a team, and to collaborate with other professionals, such as educators, caregivers, and parents, to create an optimal play environment for children.

They will participate in all necessary training and continuing professional development, maintaining an up-to-date knowledge of play and the legal requirements for an environment where children play. They will understand and work in line with safeguarding policies and procedures to prevent and protect all children from harm.

Apprentices will learn how to observe children playing, support children's freely chosen, self-directed play, build playful relationships with children, recognise professional boundaries and provide a diverse, inclusive and accessible setting for all children and young people.

Entry requirements

Apprentices will need to be employed in an appropriate role where they care for and support children in taking responsibility for themselves and their own playing whilst creating a stimulating and adventurous space for children to learn and explore.

Individuals without level 1 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the end-point assessment. The employer may set additional entry requirements.



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