

SKAPW36 - SQA Unit Code F379 04

Help to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team



Overview

As a playworker, you must always reflect on the way you support children and young people's freely chosen, self-directed play and try to improve what you do. You must also be aware that the quality of the children and young people's play experiences depends on how well you work with other members of your team and the contribution that you can make to continuously improving what the team does.

The unit is divided into three parts. The first part describes the two things you have to do. These are:

1. reflect on and improve your playwork practice
2. support and improve the work of your playwork team

The second part describes the knowledge and understanding you must have.

The third part gives some examples and explanations of some words we use in this unit.

This unit is for staff working directly with children and young people in a setting whose main purpose is to provide children and young people with opportunities for freely chosen, self-directed play. These staff do not have full responsibility for the play environment but make a significant contribution to supporting play.

This unit is underpinned by the Playwork Principles and staff must be familiar with these and committed to them in their practice

SKAPW36 - SQA Unit Code F379 04

Help to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Reflect on and improve your playwork practice

- P1 take note of children and young people's responses to your playwork practice
- P2 take note of responses to your playwork practice from adults
- P3 ask for constructive feedback on your playwork practice from colleagues
- P4 reflect on all aspects of your playwork practice
- P5 work with an appropriate person to:
 - P5.1 identify your strengths, and areas where you could improve your playwork practice
 - P5.2 plan ways in which you could improve your playwork practice
 - P5.3 identify goals and targets
- P6 take part in continuing professional development that is relevant to your goals and targets
- P7 review your personal development and identify new areas of skill and knowledge to achieve new goals and targets

You must be able to:

Support the work of your playwork team

- P8 support the purpose and objectives of your team
- P9 carry out your role and responsibilities within the team
- P10 respect the roles and responsibilities of others in the team and hand over situations to them when appropriate
- P11 communicate clearly with others, orally and in writing, making sure they have the information they
- P12 interact with others in a way that supports good team work
- P13 identify and suggest ways in which the team could improve its work, challenging existing practice where necessary
- P14 respond to differences of opinion and conflict constructively
- P15 seek advice and support from relevant people when you need it others
line manager colleagues within the play environment other professionals

SKAPW36 - SQA Unit Code F379 04

Help to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how the Playwork Principles specifically relate to this unit
- K2 the legal requirements in relation to this unit and why it is important to comply with them
- K3 why reflective practice is important to playwork
- K4 why it is important to reflect on all aspects of your playwork practice, including relationships with other people
- K5 good practice in performance review and development
- K6 how to observe children and young people's responses to your playwork practice and use this to reflect
- K7 how working with children and young people may affect you emotionally and sources of help in dealing with the impact of this
- K8 why feedback from others is important in helping you to reflect on your playwork practice
- K9 what is constructive feedback, and how to gather and handle constructive feedback
- K10 how to identify your own strengths and areas for development
- K11 how to identify goals and targets and why this is important to your continuing development
- K12 how to find out about and access training and development relevant to your role and responsibilities
- K13 how your colleagues and line manager can help you to develop your skills and knowledge
- K14 sources of help on training and development from inside and outside your organisation including organisations with inclusive and rights based approaches
- K15 why it is important to continue to review and update your personal development on a regular basis and appropriate ways to do this
- K16 why effective team work is important in an inclusive play environment
- K17 other organisations and their staff with whom you may need to develop effective team relationships with
- K18 why it is important to know about and understand your team, its purpose and objectives and how you should contribute to these
- K19 why it is important to be clear about your own role and responsibilities and those of others in your team
- K20 the contractual obligations, responsibilities and rights relevant to your role
- K21 the importance of clear communication with other people, what types of information you should communicate to other people
- K22 how to interact effectively with other people to build an effective team
- K23 how to make suggestions about improving things that the team does
- K24 why it may be important to challenge existing practice and how to do so

SKAPW36 - SQA Unit Code F379 04

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- constructively
- K25 different ways to handle differences of opinion and conflict within the team
- K26 who you should turn to if you have continuing problems working with colleagues, line managers or people outside your organisation

Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

1. **others**
 - 1.1. line manager
 - 1.2. colleagues within the play environment
 - 1.3. other professionals

Glossary

Children and young people

All children and young people with respect for any impairment, their gender, race, culture, language, sexuality, health, economic or social status and any other individual characteristics

Colleagues

The people you work with – people working at the same level as yourself or your manager(s)

Continuing professional development

An ongoing process to support your individual professional development; this could involve going on a course, or observing other members of staff doing things that are new to you, receiving instructions from other members of staff on new things you have to do, having the opportunity to practise new skills, reading playwork theory, relevant research

Feedback

Other people – children, young people or colleagues – telling you what they think

Good team work

The type of relationship with your colleagues that helps the team to work well and provide a high level of service to children and young people. This includes getting along well with your colleagues, being fair to them, avoiding unnecessary disagreements and not letting your personal life influence the way you relate to colleagues

Line manager

The person to whom you report and who is accountable for the work of the team

New goals and targets

These could be developing new skills, levels of understanding or taking on new responsibilities

Playwork practice

SKAPW36 - SQA Unit Code F379 04

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What you do in the play environment to implement the Playwork Principles, including what you say and don't say and what you do and don't do

Reflect

Thinking about your work and identifying what you do well and what you could improve in

Links to other NOS

This unit links to units SKAPW33, SKAPW34 and SKAPW35

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