



National Progression Award
Playwork and Childcare





The National Progression Award (NPA) in Playwork and Childcare is a qualification for people working in a variety of childcare environments. It is at SCQF level 5.

The qualification covers all the generic knowledge that everyone working in the field needs, and that all employers look for:

- child development
- children's rights
- play
- working with children and young people



The NPA also provides options that cover specific settings, such as working as a nanny, providing after-school care, or working in a creche.





Who is it for?

The NPA Playwork and Childcare is an ideal first qualification for anyone who is at school or college and interested in working with children as a playworker, nanny, childcare assistant, or in many other roles. It is also ideal for anyone already working in one of these roles who doesn't already have a Childcare qualification.



The NPA has been approved by the Scottish Social Services Council as a suitable qualification for registration as a support worker.



What does it cover?

This is a breakdown of the Units that make up the qualification. You can achieve the NPA by completing all four mandatory Units plus one of the options.

Unit title	SOA credit value
Mandatory Units	
Working with Children and Young People	2
Children and Young People: Rights and Protection	1
Children and Young People: Process of Play	1
Child Development and Health	1
Optional Units	
Working in a Creche as a Sessional Worker	1
Working in an Out of School Care Setting as a Sessional Worker	1
Working in a Holiday Playscheme	1
Working as a Nanny in a Family Setting	1
Supporting Children with Additional Support Needs	1



The Mandatory Units

These are the Units that provide the generic knowledge and understanding everyone requires. You'll need to achieve all four to get the NPA.

Optional Units

These Units cover specific childcare settings. You'll need to achieve one of these.

Working with Children and Young People

This Unit covers the ability to work with children and young people. To achieve it, you have to provide appropriate play and activities whilst maintaining the health, safety and well-being of the children. You also need to take account of the developmental level of the child or young person.



Children and Young People: Rights and Protections

This Unit investigates the rights that children have today in society under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. To achieve it, you will have to explore these rights in relation to national and current legislation and in relation to policies and practice in childcare settings.



Children and Young People: Process of Play

This Unit covers the importance and benefits of play and some of the significant theories of play. You will be expected to consider the variety of play types available and be able to explain the benefits of play in different settings. You will also need to consider the role of the adult in providing play space and activities, and supporting children's choices.



Child Development and Health

The Unit introduces you to the principles of child development from 0-16 years. You will learn what is meant by sequences and patterns in child development, and how all the aspects of development inter-relate. You will learn about the health needs of children, and how health factors may affect the development of children.



Working in an Out of School Care Setting as a Sessional Worker

This Unit covers the roles and responsibilities of someone working with children and young people in an out of school care setting, and the legislation that covers this. You will develop an understanding of out of school care provision in a range of settings and consider the underpinning principles and values, and the roles, responsibilities and organisational and legislative requirements associated with carrying out escort duties.



Supporting Children with Additional Support Needs

This Unit introduces the issues relating to the provision of additional support for children aged 0-12 years. You will define the term 'additional support needs' and describe a range of circumstances and conditions where additional support might be required. You will also investigate the range of resources available to children who require additional support and their families.



Working in a Creche as a Sessional Worker

The Unit is designed as an introduction to working in a creche. It provides an insight into the different types of creche, and the rules and regulations, codes of practice, standards, and policies and procedures they operate under. You will develop an understanding of the underpinning values and principles required when working with children and young people.



Working in a Holiday Playscheme

The Unit covers the roles and responsibilities needed for working with children and young people in a holiday playscheme setting, and the legislation involved. You will also explore the current underpinning principles, and identify the range of play and resources that would be required in this setting.



Working as a Nanny in a Family Setting

This Unit covers the skills required to carry out the duties of a nanny or other worker in a family setting, and understand the different forms these roles can take. You will need to demonstrate your evidence of understanding or practical experience of working as a nanny or other worker in a family setting.





More information

More information about the NPA in Playwork and Childcare is available from our Customer Contact Centre:

Tel: 0845 279 1000

E-mail: customer@sqa.org.uk

You can also visit our website for Unit specifications: www.sqa.org.uk.



Customer Contact Centre

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