



Arrangements for:
**National Progression Award: Playwork
and Childcare**

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SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that Scotland's colleges have made to the development of National Qualification Group Awards.

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1 Introduction

This is the Arrangements Document for the National Progression Award in Playwork and Childcare *at SCQF level 5 which was validated in September 2007*. This document includes: background information on the development of the Group Award, its aims, guidance on access, details of the Group Award structure, and guidance on delivery.

The Group Award relates to skills and knowledge required for a support worker who works or aims to work in the Playwork or Childcare field

2 Rationale for the development of the Qualification

There are currently 2 Scottish Progression Awards (SPA) in Children's Care and Play, and Accessing Playwork, which are being delivered extensively in centres including, colleges and training providers. The SPAs have been available since 2001 and 2003, as an access course for further childcare qualifications, or as a support worker in the playwork and childcare sector.

The NPA Playwork and Childcare, will supersede both the SPAs in, Childrens Care and Play, and Accessing Playwork. This National Award is designed to equip candidates with the skills, knowledge and understanding required for employment, or for progression to further academic and/or professional qualifications.

The NPA Playwork and Childcare will provide:

- ◆ common mandatory elements of study for various vocational pathways
- ◆ choices of optional Units appropriate to the main career disciplines of each playwork and childcare occupation
- ◆ flexible approaches within a national framework
- ◆ the opportunity to preserve and build upon existing good practice
- ◆ compatibility with feeder qualifications, in particular Skills for Work (SfW)
- ◆ compatibility with progression qualifications, eg Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ) in Playwork or Childrens Care, Learning and Development
- ◆ a response to changing training and educational needs
- ◆ preparation for employment
- ◆ a contribution to the skills, knowledge and understanding required to underpin relevant National Occupational Standards (NOS) and SVQs
- ◆ a progression to higher level qualifications eg SVQ awards
- ◆ a focus on the development of candidates practical skills, knowledge and understanding which underpins performance in the workplace

National Progression Awards are designed to develop and assess a defined set of skills and knowledge in specialist vocational areas. They are linked to National Occupational Standards — the basis of Scottish Vocational Qualifications

3 Aims of the Group Award

The aims of the NPA Playwork and Childcare are to provide a qualification at SCQF level 5 for Playwork and Childcare workers in a variety of different working environments. The structure of the qualification allows for mandatory Units to provide the generic knowledge required by a worker in a playwork or childcare setting. The optional Units relate more specifically to various playwork and childcare settings.

3.1 Principal aims of the Group Award

The NPA Playwork and Childcare includes four mandatory Units, which cover topics such as child development, children's rights, play, working with children and young people in a setting. All of these topics are considered to be key areas of learning to employers.

3.2 General aims of the Group Award

Workers in the area of Playwork and Childcare, must work towards registration with Scottish Social Services Council. Registration is linked to the role workers carry out in their organisation and the relevant qualification which reflects this role. The NPA Playwork and Childcare aims to be one of the qualifications, relevant to the registration process.

This award will develop candidates:

- ◆ practical skills
- ◆ ability to solve problems
- ◆ transferable skills
- ◆ ability to be flexible and work cooperatively with others
- ◆ responsibility for own learning
- ◆ planning, organisational and evaluation skills
- ◆ oral, written and communication skills
- ◆ numerical skills
- ◆ resource management ability
- ◆ flexibility, knowledge, skills and motivation as a basis for progression

3.3 Target groups

This National Progression Award is suitable for a wide range of candidates including:

- ◆ S5 and S6 candidates
- ◆ school leavers
- ◆ progression candidates (eg Skills for Work)
- ◆ adults returning to education
- ◆ employed candidates who wish to enhance their career prospects
- ◆ unemployed candidates who wish to enhance their job prospects
- ◆ workers in the sector who wish to gain a qualification for registration (SSSC dependent)

3.4 Employment opportunities

The National Progression Award Playwork and Childcare can lead to employment within the Playwork and Childcare sector.

SSSC recognise certain awards as suitable for registration requirements in the playwork and childcare sector. The NPA is recognised as a support workers registration qualification. Then this will enhance the employability of workers currently in the sector.

4 Access to Group Award

As with all SQA qualifications, access to the awards will be at the discretion of the centre although the National Progression Award in Playwork and Childcare is fundamentally designed to encourage open access to all candidates in so far as possible.

One of the major attractions to using a progression award is that they are tailored to the needs and circumstances of the candidates. The assessments for the NPA will be challenging and meaningful, but nonetheless still achievable for all candidates who are prepared to work to gain the award. They are designed to get candidates acclimatised to a culture of attainment where assessments will challenge them, but do not put unreasonable obstacles between them and real achievement.

5 Group Award Structure

The Group Award consists of four mandatory Units and one option Unit from a selection. Three of the mandatory Units have a single credit, and one has a double credit. One single credit option Unit has to be chosen to make up the total of 6 credits for the completed award.

5.1 Framework

| Unit title | Code | SCQF credit points | SCQF level | SQA credit value |
|--|---------|--------------------|------------|------------------|
| Working with Children and Young People | F2CN 11 | | 5 | 2 |
| Children and Young People : Rights and Protection | F2CR 11 | | 5 | 1 |
| Children and Young People : The Process of Play | F2CP 11 | | 5 | 1 |
| Child Development and Health | F19L 11 | | 5 | 1 |
| Optional Units — one to be chosen | | | | |
| Working in a crèche as a sessional worker | F2CS 11 | | 5 | 1 |
| Working in an Out of School Care Setting as a Sessional worker | F2CV 11 | | 5 | 1 |
| Working in a holiday Playscheme | F2CT 11 | | 5 | 1 |
| Working as a Nanny in a Family Setting | F2CW 11 | | 5 | 1 |
| Supporting children with Additional Support Needs | DM65 11 | | 5 | 1 |

5.2 Mapping information

The NPA Playwork and Childcare provides underpinning knowledge for the SVQ Playwork level 2.

5.3 Articulation, professional recognition and credit transfer

Articulation

The National Progression Award Playwork and Childcare has been designed as a progression route to the full range of Playwork and Early Education and Childcare SVQs or the NQ Group Award in Early Education and Childcare, as well as an articulation route from the Skills for Work Childcare awards.

Professional recognition

Completion of the NPA Playwork and Childcare will lead the candidate to registration as support worker with SSSC.

Credit transfer

There may be opportunities to consider credit transfer from current National Units, although with changes in legislation and regulation credit transfer may not always be possible.

6 Approaches to delivery and assessment

Content and context

The National Progression Award is designed to equip candidates with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for success in employment within the Playwork and Childcare sector. It is mainly aimed at candidates who are interested in pursuing a career in any of the playwork and childcare occupations.

The NPA Playwork and Childcare is at SCQF level 5. The full content can be referenced from the proposed framework.

A minimum of **six** credits are required to gain the National Progression Award in Playwork and Childcare.

The four mandatory Units in the award are one credit each with the exception of the generic Unit *Working with Children and Young People*, which has two credits. This gives candidates a total of five credits from the mandatory section.

Candidates must then choose **one** credit from the optional Units which are all one credit each. This will give candidates a total of six credits to gain the award in NPA Playwork and Childcare.

Delivery

The structure of the qualification allows for a high degree of flexibility in its delivery. Owing to the very practical nature of the award, it is recommended that each teaching/training session should be of a reasonable duration, say perhaps three hours.

The award could be offered full-time, part-time, block-release, day release or evening. Combination of delivery is also a possibility. Such combined study may enable candidates to complete the award within a shorter time period. Centres wishing to provide a full time programme might include all mandatory and optional Units in the framework.

There are many opportunities for integrative delivery of Units within the award. Teaching and learning for the generic mandatory workplace Unit (*Working with Children and Young People*) should always be integrated with an optional Unit specifying the particular workplace. Equally, assessment should be encouraged to be within the application of these practical Units. Assessment Support Packs will identify specific opportunities for integration with other Units.

It is recognised that the NPA Playwork and Childcare is very much an award which focuses on the development of the candidate's practical skills in working with the children. There may be opportunities for the introduction of e-learning during the teaching and delivery of the award. The learning and assessments of the knowledge-based Outcomes can be conducted by either using e-learning methods, or by traditional teaching techniques. For example, formal assessments may make the use of IT systems and facilities when available, or alternatively can also use the standard mode of supervising candidates during classroom paper based assessments.

7 General information for centres

Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* (www.sqa.org.uk).

Internal and external verification

All instruments of assessment used within this Group Award should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in *SQA's Guide to Assessment and Quality Assurance for Colleges of Further Education* (www.sqa.org.uk).

8 General information for candidates

The NPA Playwork and Childcare is a practical-based qualification which requires you to spend the majority of your time in a playwork or childcare setting.

The NPA is designed to equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to allow you to gain employment in the playwork or childcare sector, or to progress to a higher level qualification.

Occupations are available with a wide variety of playwork and childcare settings within the sector, including, out of school cares, nurseries, crèches, and holiday playschemes.

The NPA requires you to achieve a minimum of six credits. There is a choice in how to do this and this can be clearly understood by making reference to the award framework.

The four mandatory Units are relevant to the work you do in the playwork or childcare setting. Three of the mandatory Units are worth one credit and one of the mandatory Units is worth two credits. You can choose which optional Unit to do depending on where you work. The optional Unit will link in with the mandatory two credit Unit *Working with Children and Young People*.

You will be assessed on the knowledge and skills developed in each Unit. The assessment may take a number of forms including reports, reflective accounts and developing folios of work. The practical Unit will help you to develop your skills in working with children, and then you will be assessed on your performance in the workplace.

9 Glossary of terms

SCQF: This stands for the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework, which is a new way of speaking about qualifications and how they inter-relate. We use SCQF terminology throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk

SCQF credit points: One SCQF credit point equates to 10 hours of learning. NQ Units at SCQF levels 2-6 are worth 6 SCQF credit points, NQ Units at level 7 are worth 8 SCQF points.

SCQF levels: The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2-6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2-7.

Dedicated Core Skill Unit: This is a Unit that is written to cover one or more particular Core Skills, eg National Units in Information Technology or Communications.

Embedded Core Skills: This is where the development of a Core Skill is incorporated into the Unit and where the Unit assessment also covers the requirements of Core Skill assessment at a particular level.

Signposted Core Skills: This refers to the opportunities to develop a particular Core Skill at a specified level that lie outwith automatic certification.

Qualification Design Team: The QDT works in conjunction with a Qualification Manager/Development Manager to steer the development of the National Certificate/National Progression Award from its inception/revision through to validation. The group is made up of key stakeholders representing the interests of centres, employers, universities and other relevant organisations.

Consortium-devised National Certificates/National Progression Awards are those developments or revisions undertaken by a group of centres in partnership with SQA.