

SKAPW35 - SQA Unit Code F378 04

Contribute to the health, safety, security and welfare of children and young people using the play environment



Overview

Children and young people have a right to play in environments that are free from unacceptable risk of death or serious injury. Accidents and emergencies will occur and you should know how to respond to these effectively. As a playworker you should also help to safeguard the welfare of children and young people who use the play environment.

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

1. support the health, safety and security of children and young people
2. respond to emergencies
3. help to safeguard the welfare of children and young people

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.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Support the health, safety and security of children and young people involved in play

- P1 identify hazards in the play environment and consider what risks these may pose
- P2 enable children and young people to assess risks for themselves
- P3 assess and manage the risks according to the policies of your organisation whilst maintaining acceptable challenge and risk
- P4 get advice from colleagues when you are unsure about how to assess and deal with a hazard
- P5 support children and young people to take responsibility for their own health, safety and security
- P6 make sure your own actions do not endanger the health, safety and security of children and young people
- P7 follow your organisation's procedures for ensuring the safety and security of the children and young people on arrival and departure
- P8 maintain records on health, safety and security as required by your organisation
- P9 regularly check the toilet and washing areas and keep them clean, hygienic and stocked

You must be able to:

Respond to emergencies

- P10 identify and respond to the emergency promptly
- P11 remain calm and follow the correct procedures for the emergency according to your role and responsibilities
- P12 communicate clearly with those involved in the emergency
- P13 protect those involved in the emergency from harm
- P14 give reassurance and comfort to the people involved, if wanted
- P15 give other people providing assistance clear information about what has happened
- P16 hand over control of an emergency situation to other appropriate people when required
- P17 follow the correct procedures for reporting and recording the emergency

You must be able to:

Help to safeguard the welfare of children and young people

- P18 follow your organisation's procedures for safeguarding the welfare of children and young people
- P19 identify, record and report any concerns you may have about children and young people's welfare, being sensitive to the child and the situation
- P20 explain to the children and young people involved what information you

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may need to share with others

- P21 support the child/young person's right to their voice being heard in decisions concerning their welfare
- P22 encourage children and young people to be aware of potential risks to their welfare and how to protect themselves
- P23 respect confidential information about children and young people

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how the Playwork Principles specifically relate to this unit
- K2 the legal requirements when relating to children and young people and why it is important to comply with them
- K3 your organisational responsibilities for the health, safety and security within the remit of your job role
- K4 your organisation's policies and procedures for health, safety and security
- K5 why it is important for children and young people to take responsibility for their own health, safety and security and that of others and how you can help them to achieve this
- K6 the types of hazards that are likely to occur in play environments
- K7 how to assess and minimise the risks associated with these hazards for children and young people on an ongoing basis
- K8 situations in which you can deal with a hazard yourself and situations where the hazard must be reported to someone else and who that should be
- K9 how children and young people's development and their experiences affect their ability to manage risk for themselves
- K10 the specific requirements of disabled children and young people and how these should be met when helping them to manage risk
- K11 how you should judge how much supervision to give during play
- K12 how to judge the types of play and other behaviour that may cause unacceptable levels of risk to health, safety and welfare
- K13 the common types of injuries and illnesses that affect the children and young people you work with
- K14 the correct procedures to follow for the types of injury and illness you are likely come across
- K15 the common types of emergencies that may occur in the play environment and the procedures you should follow for each of these
- K16 the nominated first-aider in your organisation and how to contact them
- K17 the correct procedures for contacting emergency services in your organisation
- K18 why it is important to remain calm and communicate clearly with people
- K19 government and local guidance, policies and procedures relevant to safeguarding children and young people's welfare and your responsibilities in relation to these
- K20 what is meant by safeguarding children and young people and the different ways in which they may be harmed (including by other children and young people and through the internet)

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- K21 your organisation's safe practice code for protecting members of the staff team and volunteers
- K22 the different forms and extent of abuse, including bullying, and their impact on a child/young person
- K23 physical and behavioural signs that a child or young person may be experiencing abuse, including bullying
- K24 the fact that signs of abuse can be subtle and can be expressed in play, artwork and the way that children and young people approach relationships with other children, young people and adults
- K25 how and when to intervene when children's personal hygiene is interfering with them playing with others
- K26 how and when to intervene when children's hunger is affecting their ability to play
- K27 occasions when it's necessary to provide intimate personal care or assistance and how to ensure that respect is shown for the child or young person and that their dignity is maintained
- K28 why it is important that a child or young person has the right to take part in decisions that may affect them
- K29 how to observe, record and report concerns about possible abuse, distinguishing between observation, facts, information gained from others and opinion
- K30 the types of information that you may need to share with others and why it is important the child or young person is aware of this
- K31 what is confidentiality, why it is important and when and how to maintain it
- K32 the limits of confidentiality and why it is sometimes necessary to go against a child or young person's expressed wishes when it is in their best interests
- K33 the role of other people and organisations in relation to safeguarding children and young people's welfare
- K34 the necessity of information sharing in relation to children and young people's welfare
- K35 awareness of assessment frameworks or guidelines designed to safeguard the welfare of children and young people
- K36 where to get advice, support and further information on issues to do with safeguarding children's welfare
- K37 how assumptions and attitudes can prevent some children and young people from having equal opportunity and protection from harm

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Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

1. **hazard**
 - 1.1. physical
 - 1.2. emotional
 - 1.3. behavioural
 - 1.4. environmental
2. **emergency**
 - 2.1. injuries
 - 2.2. signs of illness
 - 2.3. requiring evacuation of the play environment
 - 2.4. involving the security of children and young people

Glossary

Ability

The quality of being able to do something; a quality that permits or facilitates achievement or accomplishment

Acceptable level of challenge and risk

A level of challenge and risk that provides the potential for children and young people to learn and develop without causing risks that are not acceptable to your play setting's policies and procedures for health and safety

Assessing risk

Your organisation should already have carried out formal risk assessments for all aspects of your play environment; this will result in written health and safety policies and procedures. However, every worker is responsible for identifying hazards when they occur, assessing the risks they present and taking action to control these risks in line with their organisation's policies and procedures

Bullying

Aggression deliberately and or persistently directed against a particular target, or victim

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

Concern

The awareness of indicators (verbal or behavioural from the child/young person or information from third parties) that a child/young person's physical

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or emotional well-being has been disrupted. Some indicators could result from for example bereavement, difficulties or transitions at home or school. Indicators may also suggest the possibility of child abuse or an abusive situation

Development

This includes play-related aspects of human growth from birth through adolescence. These include the progressive development of the child's intellectual skills; personality development, involving the complex interaction between psychological and social factors and the stage-by-stage development of the body and physical skills; it also includes socialization, the process by which children and young people adjust to society and its demands

Emergency

A situation requiring an immediate response, ranging from calling 999 to a problem that requires prompt action by staff within the play environment

Hazard

Something that may cause harm to the health, safety and welfare of users of the play environment, for example, broken glass, faulty play equipment, doors being left open that should be closed

Health and safety policies and procedures

These will be written policies and procedures developed by your organisation in line with relevant legislation, such as the Health and Safety at Work Act, the Children Act and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations

Play environment

Anywhere where children and young people play, for example, parks, open spaces, streets, adventure playgrounds, after-school clubs, holiday play schemes or indoor play centres, whether supervised or unsupervised

Risk

The possibility of a hazard actually causing harm – and the seriousness of harm it may cause – to children, young people and others, this will often be influenced by the level of understanding and development of the children and young people involved

Security hazards

For example strangers, familiar adults with access restrictions, opportunities for younger children to leave a supervised setting, suspect packages etc

Serious injury

An injury that is life threatening or may result in permanent impairment

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Unacceptable risk

When a child or young person engages in play behaviour that is likely to result in death or serious injury. Other risks, whilst being perceived as dangerous and potentially harmful, can be considered acceptable because the benefits of the play experience outweigh the harm that may occur

Links to other NOS

This unit links closely with units SKAPW33, SKAPW34 and SKAPW36

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