

SKAPW14 - SQA Unit Code FT50 04

Engage with parents and carers in the play environment



Overview

This unit is about engaging with parents and carers to support the needs of children in the play environment. It is about providing basic parenting support and signposting parents to other services or forms of assistance, especially in relation to issues pertinent to play.

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

1. communicate effectively with parents, carers and families
2. support effective parenting

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

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

The unit is for you if you have direct and regular contact with parents and carers in a setting whose main purpose is to provide children and young people with opportunities for freely chosen, self-directed play.

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

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Communicate effectively with parents, carers and families

- P1 initiate relationships with parents and carers in a way that helps them and their children feel welcome
- P2 establish respectful, open and honest relationships with parents and carers
- P3 hold conversations with parents and carers at appropriate times
- P4 summarise and provide clear and accurate information to parents and carers
- P5 confirm that parents and carers have understood what was communicated
- P6 respect the wishes of parents and carers within the limitations of agreed procedures, values and children's rights
- P7 respond promptly and positively to complaints and suggestions and follow organisational procedures for carrying these through
- P8 respect confidential information about parents and carers as long as the children's welfare is maintained
- P9 handle any issues or complaints from parents and carers tactfully and in accordance with organisational procedures

You must be able to:

Support effective parenting

- P10 encourage parents and carers to understand the value of play
- P11 advocate to parents and carers the importance and characteristics of freely chosen and personally directed play
- P12 share your actions and choices as a playworker with parents and carers giving reasons for your actions
- P13 listen to parents and carers concerns
- P14 discuss transitions with parents and carers
- P15 communicate to parents simple reassuring messages and facts about key transitions
- P16 refer parents and carers to sources of information, advice and support from other services, agencies or professionals
- P17 provide timely, appropriate and succinct information to enable other practitioners or professionals to deliver their support to parents and carers

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

For the whole unit

K1 how the Playwork Principles specifically relate to this unit

You need to know and understand:

Communicate effectively with parents, carers and families

K2 what open, honest, trusting and respectful relationships with parents are, and why they are important

K3 different parenting approaches

K4 how different parents approaches may impact on children's play or behaviour within the play environment

K5 the importance of identifying the needs and expectations of parents and carers

K6 why clear communication with parents and carers is important

K7 a range of ways of communicating, including electronic

K8 potential barriers to communication that parents and carers may experience

K9 how to communicate with parents and carers who may experience communication difficulties

K10 the importance of showing that you listen to parents and carers and take their views and opinions seriously

K11 how to balance the wishes of parents and carers with the agreed procedures and policies of the setting and the rights of the child

K12 the importance of confidentiality and how to balance the need to respect confidential information about parents and carers with the welfare of the child

K13 how to provide appropriate support and reassurance to parents and carers of disabled children, and those with learning difficulties or additional support needs and the types of support that could be provided

K14 a range of situations that may cause conflict with parents and carers and how to deal with these effectively

K15 your organisation's complaints procedure.

K16 what is meant by a 'shared understanding' with parents and carers and how to achieve this

You need to know and understand:

Support effective parenting

K17 the value of parents as 'partners' in the play process

K18 the limits of confidentiality in relation to children and young people; what should and should not be shared with parents and carers

K19 the key role of parents and carers in safeguarding and promoting children and young

K20 the factors that can affect parenting and increase the risk of abuse (for example, domestic violence)

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- K21 the role and value of parents and carers as partners in supporting their children to achieve positive play outcomes
- K22 different transitions and potential impact for children and young people; early years setting, primary, secondary schools, divorce, family break-up, puberty, leaving care, unemployment
- K23 when to refer parents and carers to further sources of information , advice, support or guidance
- K24 where education and support services are available to parents and carers locally
- K25 the importance of regular and ongoing contact with parents and carers
- K26 the valuable input of parents and carers in relation to multi-agency working

Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

1. **information**
 - 1.1. on the children and young people's experiences
 - 1.2. on opportunities available in the play setting
 - 1.3. on agreed procedures and values

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

Inclusion

Ensuring that play provision is open and accessible to all and takes positive action in removing barriers so that all children and young people, including the disabled and those from other minority groups, can participate

Organisation's policies and procedures

What your organisation says its staff should and should not do in certain situations

Play opportunities

Opportunities for children and young people to engage in self-directed, freely chosen play

Play setting

Anywhere where children and young people play, for example, an indoor play centre or adventure playground

Parents and Carers

All people with parental or caring responsibilities for children. Including primary and non-primary carers. This term should be taken to include all family members (including brothers and sisters) who may have caring responsibilities, wider family members, partners of parents and childminders or similar

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