

# SKAPW41 - SQA Unit Code FT55 04

## Carry out playwork with young children (pre-school)



---

### Overview

This unit is suitable for playworkers who undertake playwork with pre-school children. It is suitable for playworkers who work exclusively with young children and for playworkers whose work with young children is part of a wider provision for older children and young people.

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

1. support the wellbeing of young children in the play environment
2. support the play process

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.

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.

## SKAPW41 - SQA Unit Code FT55 04

### Carry out playwork with young children (pre-school)

---

#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

#### **Support the wellbeing of young children in the play environment**

- P1 balance the need to meet young children's care needs with the primary focus of freely chosen play
- P2 communicate the purpose of the setting and play environment to young children in ways that are appropriate to the process of their individual development
- P3 communicate the purpose of the play space to parents and carers, highlighting the benefits of freely chosen play
- P4 identify behaviour patterns, routines and individual needs of young children that can be used to inform practice
- P5 agree, implement and keep records of appropriate routines and procedures
- P6 form appropriate attachments with young children
- P7 provide food, and drink for children appropriate to their needs
- P8 provide information, in line with confidentiality agreements, to parents, carers and other agencies or professionals
- P9 discuss young children's transitions with their parents and carers

*You must be able to:*

#### **Support the play process**

- P10 enable young children to follow their own instincts in their play
- P11 provide a range of loose parts suitable for young children to play with
- P12 support young children to contribute to creating, developing and changing the play environment
- P13 support young children to make choices about the direction and content of their own play
- P14 observe young children at play
- P15 respond to young children's play cues
- P16 support young children to develop and explore their schemas through appropriate interventions and supply of resources
- P17 help to maintain the play frames of young children
- P18 bring play to an end in a way that supports the needs of young children

# SKAPW41 - SQA Unit Code FT55 04

## Carry out playwork with young children (pre-school)

---

### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 how the Playwork Principles specifically relate to this unit
- K2 a range of settings where pre-school children may take part in play and the key differences between these
- K3 regulatory requirements that are specific to working with young children
- K4 the range of ways in which young children, communicate
- K5 theories of play and playwork that are relevant to working with young children and the implication of these for working with young children
- K6 what schemas are, the importance of exploring them and how to recognise them
- K7 how self directed play helps young children understand themselves and the world around them
- K8 what adulteration of play is, how to avoid it, and why this avoidance is important
- K9 when adult intervention will impact negatively on young children's play, and how to avoid this
- K10 when observations of young children could be recorded and why the recording of this information may be useful
- K11 the range of information you may need to provide to parents, carers or other professionals in relation to the young children you are working with, and the reasons for doing this
- K12 the needs of young children, including; physical needs, nourishment and hunger needs, emotional needs, play needs and development needs
- K13 the types of support other playworkers with limited experience of work with young children may require when undertaking playwork with children in this age group
- K14 the types of support non-playworker colleagues may need in applying playwork approaches to working with young children, and how to provide such support
- K15 the concept of 'loose parts' and how loose parts are used
- K16 how to carry out a risk/benefit analysis for young children's play

### Additional Information

#### Glossary

##### **Young Children**

All children 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

##### **Observation**

The purpose of observation in a play environment is to observe children's play behaviours and the response of adults to ensure the environment continues to provide effective play spaces. These observations may include play types, cues and returns and playworkers' interventions. These observations are not for the purpose of monitoring children's development, planning activities or a curriculum; observations may or may not be recorded

##### **Organisation's policies and procedures**

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

##### **Play opportunities**

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

##### **Play setting**

Anywhere where children and young people play, for example, a pre-school play setting

##### **Parents and Carers**

All people with parental or caring responsibilities for pre-school children. 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

##### **Schema**

A mental model of the self or aspects of the environment that helps young children understand themselves and the world around they live in

# SKAPW41 - SQA Unit Code FT55 04

## Carry out playwork with young children (pre-school)

---

**Developed by** SkillsActive

---

**Version number** 1

---

**Date approved** July 2010

---

**Indicative review date** July 2015

---

**Validity** Current

---

**Status** Original

---

**Originating organisation** SkillsActive

---

**Original URN** SA44NPW41

---

**Relevant occupations** Health, Public Services and Care; Child Development and Well Being; Associate Professionals and Technical Occupations; Sports and Fitness Occupations

---

**Suite** Playwork

---

**Key words** carry out, playwork, young, children, pre-school