



Professional Development Award Childhood Practice at SCQF Level 9

The new Professional Development Award (PDA) in Childhood Practice Award at SCQF level 9 will enable the development of the skills and knowledge required to manage services for children and young people. It is aimed at those who wish to progress into management within the Childcare and Playwork sectors without having to complete a full-time university programme.

This work based award has been developed by SQA, with many partners including the:

Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) (who will accept this for registration as a manager),
Scottish Government
Skillsactive UK
Scottish Out of School Care Network
Childhood Practice Development Group

The PDA in Childhood Practice at SCQF Level 9 (Ordinary Degree equivalent) is an innovative qualification which is based on work practices and offers an integrated approach to assessment.

Entry to the PDA qualification is through recognition of prior learning. Candidates should already have qualifications in the sector that allow registration by the SSSC as a Practitioner at SCQF level 7 and have relevant qualifications at SCQF level 8.

To undertake this PDA the candidate must meet the entry requirements of 240 credits at SCQF Levels 7 and 8. This means that candidates must complete a total of 360 SCQF credits to achieve this PDA group award.

The PDA in Childhood Practice at SCQF level 9 has been developed to support the professionalisation of the workforce to meet the requirement of the *Benchmark Standard for Childhood Practice*.

The PDA aims to integrate the existing professional progress of candidates into the award framework through the recognition of qualifications that meet current registration requirements, such as Higher National Qualifications (HNC/Ds), Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) and other Professional Development Awards (PDAs).

This award is designed to provide flexible and adaptable learning opportunities which will meet the needs of the learner.

The aims of the award

The PDA in Childhood Practice at SCQF level 9 aims to:

- ◆ Provide recognition for the skills and achievements of candidates within childhood practice and registration with the SSSC
- ◆ Meet the needs of candidates with different experience and different childhood practice responsibilities (by providing routes to the PDA Childhood Practice SCQF level 9 at SCQF level 7 and SCQF level 8).
- ◆ Enable candidates to develop skills and knowledge across a range of childhood practice principles and apply them to a relevant work context
- ◆ Provide candidates with the skills and knowledge to lead organisations in a manner which is consistent with the Standards for Childhood Practice

What does it cover?

This is a breakdown of the Units that make up the qualification. You can achieve the PDA by completing 5 Mandatory Units and 2 Units from Group A and 1 unit from Group B.

Mandatory Units			
Unit Title	SQA Unit Code	SQA Credit Value	SCQF Credit Value
Childhood Practice: Leadership and Management	FD6X 36	2.0	16
Developing Services for Children and Young People	FD6Y 36	2.0	16
Children's Rights: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	FD70 36	2.0	16
Participatory Partnerships: Working with Families	FD71 36	2.0	16
Childhood Practice: Leadership and Management (Workplace Practice)	FD72 36	4.0	32

Group A (2 units required)	SQA Unit Code	SQA Credit Value	SCQF Credit Value
Childhood Practice: Developing a Rights Based Approach to Service Delivery	FD73 36	1.0	8
Childhood Practice: Development of Children (Pre-Birth to Three)	FD74 36	1.0	8
Childhood Practice: Early Learning	FD75 36	1.0	8
Childhood Practice: Playwork	FD76 36	1.0	8
Childhood Practice: Youth Services	FD95 36	1.0	8
Childhood Practice: Family Support	FD77 36	1.0	8
Childhood Practice: Active Leisure	FD78 36	1.0	8
Childhood Practice: Leading Professional Development	FD79 36	1.0	8
Childhood Practice: Independent Study	FD7A 36	1.0	8

Group B (1 unit required)	SQA Unit Code	SQA Credit Value	SCQF Credit Value
Childhood: Health, Fitness and Wellbeing	FD7C 36	1.0	8
Childhood: Comparative Play Theories	FD7D 36	1.0	8
Childhood: Families, Culture and Society	FD7E 36	1.0	8
Childhood: Play in a Social Context	FD7F 36	1.0	8
Childhood: Therapeutic Playwork	FD9G 36	1.0	8

The PDA Childhood Practice at SCQF level 9 is an award for those seeking to develop their professional knowledge and skills, to advance their practice and enhance their personal and professional values and commitment.

In this respect, potential candidates to this PDA Childhood Practice at SCQF level 9 through the integrated qualification and professional development framework may include:

- ◆ candidates already in post as leaders/managers without a qualification at SCQF level 9 that will meet the SSSC's new requirement for managers/lead practitioners
- ◆ candidates moving on from level 7 practitioner qualifications such as SVQ3 and Higher National Certificates (HNCs) through additional CPD qualifications like Higher National Diplomas (HNDs), SVQ4s, PDAs, Open University Diplomas of Higher Education, and then on to level 9
- ◆ candidates from other workforces with relevant SCQF level 7, 8 or 9 qualifications e.g. in residential childcare
- ◆ 'direct entry' candidates with existing awards at level 9 or above e.g. graduates with vocational degrees e.g. in teaching, community learning and development, social work, health; or with non-vocational degrees e.g. in history, chemistry, media, international relations, psychology, or with other equivalent award. Although it is more likely that these candidates will choose to progress to a post-graduate qualification.

Candidates for these awards should have well developed communication and inter-personal skills and be able to demonstrate the ability to think analytically and systematically. They should be able to use these skills to give an account of their experiences, reflect on them, make valid conclusions and express strengths and development needs, both personal and organisational.

Approved Centre

As this is a new award centres have yet to be approved by SQA and SSSC. Both organisations have a working group looking at the streamlining of the approval processes while maintaining quality control.

In line with SSSC requirements for approval of the PDA Childhood Practice SCQF Level 9, those delivering must develop partnership arrangements with employers and practice learning providers to identify the roles of managers, tutors, assessors and learners within a service level agreement.

More information about the PDA in Childhood Practice at SCQF level 9 is available from:

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SQA Web pages for PDA Childhood Practice - www.sqa.org.uk/childhoodpracticelevel9