

Overview

This standard is about children and young people having a right to play in playwork settings where they avoid coming into physical and or emotional harm, in line with legal and organisational policies and procedures. Accidents and emergencies may occur and you should know how to respond to these effectively. As a playworker you should help to safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people who use the playwork setting.

The main outcomes of this standard are:

1. maintain the health, safety and security of children, young people and others
2. support children and young people's wellbeing

This standard is for a playworker working directly with children and young people in a playwork setting whose main purpose is to provide children and young people with opportunities for freely chosen, self-directed play. This standard is for staff that do not have full responsibility for the playwork setting but make a significant contribution to supporting play.

This standard is underpinned by the Playwork Principles and playworkers must be familiar with these and, where possible, demonstrate them through their practice and reflection.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Maintain the health, safety and security of children, young people and others

1. identify any **hazards**
2. mitigate the **hazards** or seek advice from **others** when you are unsure about how to deal with a hazard
3. check the toilet and washing areas are clean, hygienic and stocked, in accordance with organisational policies and procedures
4. dispose of waste, in accordance with organisational policies and procedures
5. support the choices that children and young people make when assuming responsibility for their own health, safety and security, in accordance with organisational policies and procedures
6. manage, use and dispose of, or store, all hazardous materials in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements
7. follow organisational policies and procedures for the security and wellbeing of the children and young people on arrival and departure
8. maintain records on health, safety and security in accordance with organisational policies and procedures
9. identify and respond to emergencies, in accordance with organisational policies and procedures, and in line with your role and responsibilities
10. enable children and young people to identify **hazards** and report to others

Support children and young people's wellbeing

11. contribute to meeting the **needs** of children and young people to support their wellbeing
12. support healthy eating in your playwork setting, according to government guidelines
13. provide access to drinkable water for children and young people
14. work with the children, young people and **others** to identify any cultural and or specific care requirements
15. encourage children and young people to care for themselves, according to their preferences, **needs** and stages of development
16. respond to challenging situations in accordance with organisational policies and procedures
17. ensure that any particular **information** about children and young peoples' **needs** are recorded and shared with **others**

Contribute to the health, safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the playwork setting

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Maintain the health, safety and security of children, young people and others

1. the Playwork Principles within the professional and ethical framework for playwork and how each of the principles can be applied within your own role
2. the types of **hazards** that may occur in **aspects of the playwork setting**
3. when to mitigate the **hazards** or to seek advice from **others** if unsure about how to deal with a hazard
4. how and when to minimise risks associated with these **hazards**, in partnership with **others**, whilst retaining challenge
5. organisational policies and procedures and how to follow these, according to your role and responsibilities
6. current legal and regulatory requirements relating to health, safety and security and how these should link to organisational policies and procedures
7. the types of hazardous materials and how to deal with them in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements
8. how to enable children and young people to identify **hazards** and the importance of children and young people reporting them to others
9. signs and symptoms of injuries, illnesses and allergic reactions that may affect children and young people and how to recognise these when they occur
10. the types of emergencies that may occur in playwork settings and how to respond
11. the role of the nominated first-aider in your organisation and how to contact them

Support children and young people's wellbeing

12. the factors involved when contributing to the **needs** of children and young people to support their wellbeing
13. how to support healthy eating according to government guidelines, in your playwork setting
14. how to provide access to drinkable water for children and young people and why this is important
15. why it is important to work with the children, young people and **others** to identify any cultural and or specific care requirements
16. why it is important to encourage children and young people to care for themselves

Contribute to the health, safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the playwork setting

17. how to take into account the child or young person's preferences, **needs** and stages of development
18. how to support children and young people's development of self-esteem and confidence and why it is important to do so
19. what may constitute a challenging situation
20. the importance of responding to challenging situations in accordance with organisational policies and procedures
21. how to record **information** about children and young people's **needs** and know who to share it with

Contribute to the health, safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the playwork setting

**Scope/range related
to performance
criteria**

Hazards

1. physical
2. emotional
3. behavioural
4. environmental

Others

1. parents and or carers
2. staff
3. other professionals

Needs

1. cultural
2. personal care
3. medical
4. physical
5. emotional

Information

1. background
2. dietary needs
3. allergies
4. personal care requirements
5. access and collection arrangements
6. organisational records

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**Scope/range related
to knowledge and
understanding**

Hazards

1. physical
2. emotional
3. behavioural
4. environmental

Aspects of the playwork setting

1. place space
2. behaviour
3. play behaviour
4. equipment
5. materials
6. resources

Others

1. parents and or carers
2. staff
3. other professionals

Needs

1. cultural
2. personal care
3. medical
4. physical
5. emotional

Information

1. background
2. dietary needs
3. allergies
4. personal care requirements
5. access and collection arrangements
6. organisational records

Values

The Playwork practitioners involved in writing this standard, in conjunction with SkillsActive, have agreed to adopt the following as the set of values prescribed for all of those working within the playwork sector:

Playwork Principles

These Principles establish the professional and ethical framework for playwork and as such must be regarded as a whole. They describe what is unique about play and playwork, and provide the playwork perspective for working with children and young people. They are based on the recognition that children and young people's capacity for positive development will be enhanced if given access to the broadest range of environments and play opportunities.

1. All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity, and is fundamental to the healthy development and wellbeing of individuals and communities.
2. Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.
3. The prime focus and essence of playwork is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.
4. For playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.
5. The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.
6. The playworker's response to children and young people playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.
7. Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.

8. Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and wellbeing of children.

The Playwork Principles are held in trust for the UK playwork profession by the Scrutiny Group that acted as an honest broker overseeing the consultations through which they were developed.

Glossary

Challenging situations

These are occurrences which the playworker does not necessarily feel comfortable with, they can include examples such as an altercation with and, or behaviour from, parents and carers; a child displaying aggression; a child's play behaviour; toileting; or sexualised behaviour

Hazardous materials

These could include items such as faeces, syringes, contraceptives, glass, combustibles, cleaning products, bodily fluids, medicines and or broken articles

Intervention styles

A range of methods the playworker can use in the playwork setting. These may range from complete non-involvement through to specific intervention and may include: waiting to be invited to play; enabling un-interrupted play; enabling children and young people to explore their own values; leaving children and young people to improve their own performance; leaving the content and or intent of play to the children and young people; letting the children and young people decide why they play; enabling the children and young people to decide what is appropriate behaviour; and only organising when children and young people want you to

Play frame

A material or non-material boundary that keeps the play intact

Play space

A place formed by children and young people playing. It can be physical, affective, permanent, transient or cyber

Playwork setting

Contribute to the health, safety and wellbeing of children and young people in the playwork setting

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Somewhere children and young people have the opportunity to play that is staffed by playworkers

Staff

This covers those with whom you work, for whom you are responsible, paid and or unpaid, or students and or trainees

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