

Contribute to the development and maintenance of links and partnerships in the playwork setting

Overview

This standard is about contributing to the promotion of your area of work and its value to the community. It covers developing and maintaining positive links and partnerships that could be useful in the promotion of your playwork setting and your career.

The main outcomes of this standard are:

1. communicate with others about your work
2. set up and maintain links and partnerships with organisations and others

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.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Communicate with others about your work

1. discuss with your responsible colleague opportunities to promote your area of work and organisation to **others**
2. gain approval and support from your responsible colleague to go forward with your ideas for promotion
3. explain and or promote your organisation to **others**
4. find out how **others** can support your organisation
5. explain to **others** how the work of your organisation is of benefit to the community
6. gain feedback from **others** about their views of your organisation
7. present this information in a way which meets the needs of those with whom you are communicating
8. keep your responsible colleague informed about your activities with **others**

Set up and maintain links and partnerships with organisations and others

9. find out about **others** your organisation works with
10. contribute to **communication** with **others**
11. discuss with **others** current and possible future links and partnership working
12. give information to your responsible colleague about organisations that will provide complementary opportunities
13. exchange information as agreed with your responsible colleague and **others**, in accordance with your organisational policies and procedures
14. plan and draw up a **work schedule** for the working relationship
15. seek approval from your responsible colleague for the **work schedule**
16. undertake and maintain partnership working with **others** in accordance with your organisational policies and procedures
17. feedback to your responsible colleague about the progress of the partnership work at regular intervals, in accordance with your organisational policies and procedures
18. monitor the working relationship, with the support of your responsible colleague

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Communicate with others about your work

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 **aspects of your work and organisation** that can be promoted
3. why you must gain approval and support from a responsible colleague within your organisation
4. ways of promoting your organisation's work in a way that meets the needs of **others**
5. how **others** can support your organisation
6. the type of information your responsible colleague will require to inform an agreement to engage in complementary opportunities
7. how the work of your organisation is of benefit to the community
8. methods of gaining feedback from **others** about their views of your organisation
9. different forms of communications media and how to present information in a way which meets the needs of those with whom you are communicating
10. the importance of keeping your responsible colleague informed about your activities with **others**

Set up and maintain links and partnerships with organisations and others

11. the **others** who your organisation works with
12. the **methods of communication** that can be used with **others**
13. how to identify current and possible future links and partnership working
14. the benefits and drawbacks of partnership working
15. the agreement that you have with **others** and the protocol for exchanging information in accordance with your organisational policies and procedures
16. the contents of a **work schedule** for partnership working
17. how to undertake and maintain partnership working with **others** in accordance with your organisational policies and procedures
18. why you must provide feedback on the progress of the partnership work to your responsible colleague
19. ways of monitoring the working relationship, with the support of your responsible colleague

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Scope/range related to performance criteria **Others (minimum of 6 out of 8)**

1. external professionals
2. staff
3. children and young people
4. children and young people who experience barriers to access
5. parents and or carers
6. organisations
7. professionals in other disciplines
8. individuals in the community

Communication

1. meetings
2. tele-communication
3. electronic or web communication
4. printed

Work schedule

1. roles and responsibilities
2. approach
3. process
4. ethos
5. focus
6. aims and objectives

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Scope/range related **Aspects of your work and organisation**

**to knowledge and
understanding**

1. play
2. playwork
3. ethos
4. services
5. opportunities
6. events
7. campaigns
8. links with other organisations
9. responsibilities
10. achievements
11. context

Others

1. external professionals
2. staff
3. children and young people
4. children and young people who experience barriers to access
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Methods of communication

Methods

1. interpersonal
2. individual styles
3. inclusive
4. formal
5. informal
6. meetings
7. events

Types of media

1. printed
2. visual
3. tele-communication

4. electronic or web communication

Work schedule

1. roles and responsibilities
2. approach
3. process
4. ethos
5. focus
6. aims and objectives

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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.

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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

Play space

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

Playwork setting

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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