

Overview

This standard is about working jointly with other organisations, agencies and professionals, promoting your area of work and its value to the community. This standard also covers setting up and maintaining networks.

The main outcomes of this standard are:

1. establish and maintain links with others
2. promote the value of play and playwork to others
3. work jointly with 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 who have some responsibility for the playwork setting and others, making 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.

Work with others external to your playwork setting

Performance criteria

You must be able to: **Establish and maintain links with others**

1. identify **others** with whom you could work productively
2. establish contact with **others** with whom you could network
3. respond to approaches from **others**
4. explore with **others** the possible benefits of future links
5. establish a networking partner and agree how you will maintain contact and exchange **information** in the future
6. exchange **information** with your networking partner, in accordance with organisational policies and procedures

Promote the value of play and playwork to others

7. identify **opportunities** to promote the value of play and the playwork ethos to **others**
8. **communicate information** about your own and **others'** organisations which provide similar opportunities
9. emphasise the benefits of your work to the wider community
10. **communicate information** in a way which is appropriate to the **others** involved
11. promote the value of play and the playwork ethos in a way which is consistent with organisational policies and practices

Work jointly with others

12. agree the aims, objectives and **parameters** for joint working
13. agree the roles and responsibilities of yourself and **others**
14. agree to undertake work that is consistent with your level of responsibility and competence
15. agree how you will maintain contact and review progress during joint working
16. keep **others** informed of your own progress and review the progress they are making
17. solve problems jointly
18. maintain working relationships with **others** throughout joint working, in accordance with your organisational policies and procedures

Work with others external to your playwork setting

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Establish and maintain links with 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. why networking is important
3. the range of organisations and individuals with whom you could develop working relationships
4. the mutual benefits which could come about from joint working with **others**
5. how to identify and approach suitable organisations and individuals
6. how to explore the possible advantages of joint working and establishing a networking partner
7. how to establish and maintain effective working relationships with **others**
8. the importance of responding positively and co-operatively to **others**
9. the importance of reaching organisations and individuals who experience barriers to access and how to do this effectively
10. the type of **information** that can be shared between **others**

Promote the value of play and playwork to others

11. why it is important to promote your own area of work and its values, purpose and methods widely
12. the types of opportunities which you could use to promote your work and own organisation and how to identify suitable ones
13. **methods of communication** that meet the needs of different types of audiences including those who may have different communication needs
14. how to promote your area of work in a way that addresses other people's preconceptions and views about playwork
15. the benefits of your work to the community and how to emphasise these
16. why it is important to obtain feedback from organisations, agencies and individuals in the community about initiatives and what to do with such feedback
17. organisational policies and practices which need to be kept in mind when promoting playwork

Work jointly with others

18. the importance of clearly agreeing the aims, objectives and **parameters** involved in joint working

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- 19. the importance of only taking on responsibilities which are feasible and within your **capabilities**
- 20. negotiation and problem solving skills relevant to joint working
- 21. the importance of maintaining contact and reviewing progress with your networking partner and individuals involved and how to do so
- 22. the importance of promptly informing other organisations and individuals of any difficulties in joint work
- 23. the types of difficulties which can occur in joint working and how to deal with these

Work with others external to your playwork setting

Scope/range related Others (minimum of 5 out of 8)

to performance criteria

1. organisations
2. agencies
3. professionals
4. from the field of playwork
5. from other areas of specialism
6. statutory
7. non-statutory
8. those who traditionally experience barriers to access

Information

1. that covers shared aims, objectives and future projects
2. that is up-to-date
3. with its source
4. with avoidance of disclosure

Opportunities (minimum of 2 out of 3)

1. events
2. campaigns
3. achievements

Communicate (minimum of 3 out of 4)

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

Parameters (minimum of 6 out of 8)

1. roles and responsibilities
2. approach
3. process
4. communication
5. ethos of work
6. focus of work
7. division of work

8. contingency measures

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Scope/range related Others

to knowledge and understanding

1. organisations
2. agencies
3. professionals
4. from the field of playwork
5. from other areas of specialism
6. statutory
7. non-statutory
8. those who traditionally experience barriers to access

Information

1. that covers shared aims, objectives and future projects
2. that is up-to-date
3. with its source
4. with avoidance of disclosure

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

Parameters

1. roles and responsibilities
2. approach
3. process
4. communication

- 5. ethos
- 6. focus
- 7. division of work
- 8. contingency measures

Capabilities

- 1. level of responsibility
- 2. competence and skills
- 3. time available
- 4. resources

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 ethos

The guiding beliefs or ideals when working with children and young people to give them support and freedom to gain positive experiences through play; reference should be made to the Playwork Principles

Playwork setting

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

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