

Organise and support open access play opportunities in public spaces

Overview

This standard covers the identification and preparation involved in planning and preparing outdoor public spaces for supporting play, whilst liaising with various individuals and groups, to support and evaluate the effectiveness of this process.

The main outcomes of this standard are:

1. identify and promote outdoor public spaces for supporting play
2. make preparations for planning and supporting play
3. implement and evaluate self-directed play

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 have some responsibility for the playwork setting and others, 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:

Identify and promote outdoor public spaces for supporting play

1. obtain data on the community or area within which the play provision is to be located
2. consult with **people** to identify the areas where the play provision would be best located
3. communicate the purpose, values and methods of your area of work to the **people** involved
4. build relationships with local neighbours and residents
5. adopt a community development approach

Make preparations for planning and supporting play

6. identify the **considerations** that need to be made before going into the public space
7. develop a plan which meets the needs of children and young people in an open access context and covers all areas of preparation
8. consult on and promote the service to the **people** involved

Implement and evaluate self-directed play

9. facilitate self-directed play in a public space
10. follow legal and organisational policies and procedures for health, safety and security of children, young people and staff
11. follow the organisational policies and procedures for responding to incidents where play opportunities are happening in public spaces
12. monitor and evaluate how well self-directed play is working
13. bring the play opportunity to an end in line with the aims and goals of the play provision
14. obtain feedback from **people** about the impact of the initiatives
15. use collected information and feedback to choose and promote future outdoor open-access play provision

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Identify and promote outdoor public spaces for supporting play

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 overall aims and goals of the play provision and why these are important
3. the type, source and method of obtaining relevant, accurate and current data on the community or area within which the play provision is to be located
4. how to identify the relevant **people** for consultation and methods to be used
5. why it is important to promote children and young people's right to play in open-access public spaces
6. how to convey the benefits of open-access play opportunities clearly
7. how to adjust your communication to suit the different types of **people**
8. methods of working with **people**, the local neighbours and residents to foster relationships
9. how to adopt a community development approach

Make preparations for planning and supporting play

10. the types of **preparations** that need to be made before going into a public space
11. how to develop a plan that covers the full range of **preparations** that need to be made
12. how to consult and promote the service to the other **people** involved
13. how to encourage greater ownership of public spaces and the development of child-friendly communities with the other **people** involved

Implement and evaluate self-directed play

14. the **considerations** to take when supporting self-directed play in a public space
15. the legal and organisational policies and procedures for health, safety and security of children, young people and staff
16. how to undertake dynamic risk-benefit assessments
17. the range of hazards that may occur when children and young people play in a public space
18. the importance of ensuring the safety and welfare of children and young people in a public space and how to do so

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19. the organisational policies and procedures for responding to incidents in a public space
20. how to monitor and evaluate the effect of the play provision on the use of the public space
21. how to collect information on the type and frequency of use of the public space
22. how to bring play to an end in line with the aims and goals of the play provision
23. why it is important to obtain feedback from the other **people** involved and what to do with such feedback
24. how to use data, information and feedback to choose and promote future outdoor open-access play provision

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Scope/range related to performance criteria **People** (*minimum of 3 out of 5*)

1. children and young people
2. parents and or carers
3. community groups
4. local communities
5. organisations

Considerations (*minimum of 6 out of 9*)

1. specific play opportunities
2. site visits to map affordances and play value, fascination traps, play attractors
3. risk-benefit analysis and assessment
4. health, safety and security procedures
5. equipment and resources, including the additional ones needed to support open access play
6. photo identification of visitors
7. appropriate protective clothing
8. transport
9. cleaning of the play space, after sessions

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

1. children and young people
2. parents and or carers
3. community groups
4. local communities
5. organisations

Preparations

1. specific play opportunities
2. site visits to map affordances and play value, fascination traps, play attractors
3. risk-benefit analysis and assessment
4. health, safety and security procedures
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Considerations

1. open access and fluctuating numbers
2. varied age range
3. parents and or carers
4. public
5. staffing

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

Play provision

Adult created places where children and young people can play

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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