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## Overview

This standard is about maintaining and improving the facilities and services for which you are responsible. There is a strong emphasis on health, safety, security, risk assessment and risk management. However, the standard also covers improving the facilities and services you provide in response to the needs of users.

### **The main outcomes of this standard are:**

1. monitor the requirements of the play provision
2. manage risk within the play provision
3. maintain and improve facilities and services to support the play provision

This standard is for an individual working within playwork, operating at management levels in a variety of cross-sector positions; working in a role that includes managing a number of playwork settings whose main purpose is to provide children and young people with opportunities for freely chosen, self-directed play. They will be responsible for the operational running of these playwork settings, and for numerous staff and their welfare.

**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.**

## Manage, develop and review play provision

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### Performance criteria

You must be able to:

#### **Monitor the requirements of the play provision**

1. carry out regular inspections of the **play provision**, in accordance with legal, regulatory and organisational requirements
2. maintain records in accordance with legal, regulatory and organisational requirements
3. consult with staff and **users** of the **play provision** and identify areas where they feel improvements could be made
4. provide access to records for staff, parents, carers and external agencies when needed in accordance with organisational policies and procedures
5. provide reports to your organisation and external agencies

#### **Manage risk within the play provision**

6. establish procedures for managing risks to a level acceptable to your organisation and within legal and regulatory requirements
7. carry out risk-benefit assessments of the **play provision** in accordance with legal and organisational requirements
8. seek advice from a competent source when you are unsure about how to minimise identified risks
9. ensure that everyone using the **play provision** has accurate information about hazards and risks and the steps you have taken to manage these
10. carry out regular reviews of your procedures for assessing and managing risks in accordance with legal, regulatory and organisational requirements

#### **Maintain and improve facilities and services to support the play provision**

11. identify aspects of the **play provision** that do not meet legal, regulatory and organisational requirements or the expectations of your **users**
12. consult with staff and **users** to identify opportunities for maintenance and improvement
13. agree a budget and schedule for the work to be undertaken
14. manage the schedule for maintenance and improvements to the **play provision** in accordance with your organisational procedures to keep disruption to a minimum
15. monitor that maintenance and improvements undertaken according to schedule and budget will meet legal, regulatory and organisational requirements

Manage, develop and review play provision

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16. keep all staff and **users** informed of progress of the maintenance and improvement schedule and of any alterations or delays
17. keep accurate records of maintenance and improvement activities

## Manage, develop and review play provision

**Knowledge and understanding**

You need to know and understand:

**Monitor the requirements of the play provision**

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 legal, regulatory and organisational requirements that apply to your **play provision** and why these are important
3. the records you are required to keep in accordance with legal, regulatory and organisational requirements and who can have access to these
4. legal, regulatory and organisational requirements for regular inspection of the **play provision** and the frequency of these
5. effective procedures for consulting with staff and **users** of your **play provision**
6. the importance of consulting and engaging with staff and **users** of your **play provision**
7. the reports that you need to make to your organisation and external agencies and why these are important

**Manage risk within the play provision**

8. acceptable levels of risk according to organisational, legal and regulatory requirements for the types of hazards you are likely to encounter within your **play provision**
9. how to carry out risk-benefit assessments of all aspects of the **play provision**, in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements
10. current nationally recognised guidance regarding the management of risk, whilst still retaining challenge in children and young people's play
11. who to involve in completing risk-benefit assessments
12. who, or what, would be a competent source of information on issues to do with hazards and risks and when you should consult them
13. how to communicate with staff and **users** of your **play provision** on issues to do with risk and risk management
14. the particular risks that certain **users** may face and how to manage these effectively
15. the importance of regularly reviewing and, if necessary, updating risk-benefit assessments, in accordance with legal, regulatory and organisational requirements

**Maintain and improve facilities and services to support the play provision**

- 16. the importance of maintaining the quality of your **play provision** and seeking to make continuous improvements
- 17. methods of consultation and engagement with staff and **users** to identify opportunities for improvement
- 18. when and from whom to seek advice on issues of maintenance and improvement of the **play provision**
- 19. procedures for carrying out maintenance and improvement work to your **play provision** to keep disruption to a minimum
- 20. the importance of keeping to schedule and budget and issues that could arise
- 21. the importance of keeping records of changes to your **play provision** that have taken place

Manage, develop and review play provision

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**Scope/range related to performance criteria**

**Play provision**

*Facilities*

1. internal and external premises
2. play equipment and other resources
3. toilets and other hygiene provision
4. areas for the preparation and serving of food and drink

*Services (minimum of 5 out of 8)*

1. for play
2. for the health, safety, security and protection of children and young people
3. for recording attendance
4. for off-site trips
5. for providing food and drink
6. for inclusion
7. for responding to behaviour
8. for working with parents and carers

**Users**

1. children and young people
2. parents and or carers
3. groups making use of the facilities and services
4. groups who traditionally experience barriers to access

Manage, develop and review play provision

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

**Play provision**

*Facilities*

1. internal and external premises
2. play equipment and other resources
3. toilets and other hygiene provision
4. areas for the preparation and serving of food and drink

*Services*

1. for play
2. for the health, safety, security and protection of children and young people
3. for recording attendance
4. for off-site trips
5. for providing food and drink
6. for inclusion
7. for responding to behaviour
8. for working with parents and carers

**Users**

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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.



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

Manage, develop and review play provision

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