

Working In Playwork Settings

Working in Early Years & Playwork, it's not just child's play



With today's flexible approach to working playwork settings have become increasingly important. Most are needed when schools are closed and include:

Breakfast Clubs

After School Clubs

Holiday Playschemes (during the school holidays)

Extended Schools

Playwork settings can be located in various places for example schools, nurseries, community centres, village halls, hospitals, leisure centres or even play buses. Working within this type of provision you will be involved with organising and supervising play opportunities for children aged between 4 and 16.

You would have the opportunity to work part-time or perhaps full-time within several provisions at different times e.g. working in breakfast club, following that with a morning in a pre-school or playgroup and then working during the afternoon in an after school club.

A Playworker will:

- Help children develop their confidence and independence by providing a safe and stimulating environment where they can have fun
- Provide children with play and learning opportunities through a wide range of planned and free play activities both inside and outside, including arranging visits and outings
- Enable children to make choices while developing their knowledge, skills and understanding
- Be able to build good relationships with children, their parents and carers
- Be checked to ensure they are suitable to work with children

Do I need any qualifications?

There are many qualifications available, although it is not necessary to enter this profession with qualifications already in place. You would be expected however, to undertake training while you work. Short courses would include Safeguarding Children, First Aid and Food Hygiene. While qualification courses could be:

- Take 5 for Play - an introductory level 1 course
- NVQ 2 and 3 in Playwork
- NVQ 2, 3 and 4 in Children's Care, Learning and Development

The person in charge of a Playwork setting should be suitably qualified to at least Level 3 and have at least 2 years' experience of working with children.