SKAPW60 (H1)
Reflect to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team

Overview

As a playworker, you must always reflect on the way you support children and young people’s freely chosen, self-directed play and try to improve what you do. You must also be aware that the quality of the children and young people’s play experiences depends on how well you work with other members of your team and the contribution that you can make to continuously improving what the team does.

The main outcome of this standard is:

1. reflect on and improve your own and your team’s playwork practice

This standard is for a playworker working directly with children and young people in a 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 play setting but make a significant contribution to supporting play.

This standard is underpinned by The Playwork Principles and staff must be familiar with these and committed to them in their practice.
SKAPW60 (H1)
Reflect to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team

Performance criteria

You must be able to

Reflect on and improve your own and your team’s playwork practice

1. be aware of and reflect on children and young people’s responses to your playwork practice
2. reflect on responses to your playwork practice from others
3. give and receive critical analysis on playwork practice with colleagues
4. reflect on all aspects of your playwork practice
5. use different reflective practice methodologies
6. take part in continuing professional development that is relevant to your playwork practice
7. identify and suggest ways in which the team could improve its work, challenging existing practice where necessary
SKAPW60 (H1)
Reflect to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand

Reflect on and improve your own and your team’s playwork practice

1. how to observe children and young people’s responses to your playwork practice and use this to reflect
2. the ways children and young people may express their responses to your playwork practice
3. methods of reflecting on the responses to your playwork practice from others
4. the importance of critical analysis in playwork practice with colleagues
5. the importance of reflective practice in playwork
6. how to use different reflective practice methodologies
7. how your values, attitudes and experiences impact on your playwork practice
8. the importance of continuing professional development
9. how to maintain a sound, up to date knowledge of the play process
10. different continuing professional development opportunities that may be available
11. how to identify ways in which the team could improve its work and when and how to make suggestions
12. when it is appropriate to challenge existing practice and how to do so
13. how working with children and young people may affect you emotionally and ways to access sources of help in dealing with the impact of this
SKAPW60 (H1)
Reflect to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team

Additional information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

Responses
1. reactions from children and young people
2. play cues
3. play behaviour

Others
1. parents
2. colleagues
3. visitors
4. carers
5. other professionals

Reflective practice methodologies
1. thinking about what I did and felt
2. thinking about my interactions and interventions
3. observing children and young people playing now and thinking how this can inform my understanding
4. observing the play environment and how this can both support and inhibit play
5. reading relevant literature and thinking critically
6. discussing reflections with colleagues
7. keeping a reflective diary
SKAPW60 (H1)
Reflect to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team

Scope/range related to knowledge and understanding

Responses
1. reactions from children and young people
2. play cues
3. play behaviour

Others
1. parents
2. colleagues
3. visitors
4. carers
5. other professionals

Reflective practice methodologies
1. thinking about what I did and felt
2. thinking about my interactions and interventions
3. observing children and young people playing now and thinking how this can inform my understanding
4. observing the play environment and how this can both support and inhibit play
5. reading relevant literature and thinking critically
6. discussing reflections with colleagues
7. keeping a reflective diary
Values

The following key values underpin the delivery of services in playwork; the Playworker must display:

1. a willingness to observe, reflect, consider and revise their own performance on a dynamic basis; reinforced by self-reflective practice, post session
2. a flexible working attitude, adapting their level of intervention, if any, to each child and young person on an ever-changing basis, balancing risk with the developmental benefit and well-being of children and young people
3. a commitment to team work, supporting fellow colleagues and responding to children and young people based on a sound, up to date knowledge of the play process, peer observations and reflective practices
4. a positive attitude, acting as an advocate for play in that it is fundamental to the healthy development and well-being of individuals and communities, when engaging with adult led agendas
5. personal and professional ethics, in that 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
6. an accommodating attitude, in acceptance that 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
7. a sensitive approach in supporting, at the appropriate level of involvement, all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play, whilst recognising their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people’s play on themselves
Behaviours

The following **behaviours** underpin the delivery and facilitation of playwork; the Playworker must:

1. meet the agreed standards of behaviour, as set in the relevant organisation’s policies and procedures
2. greet children, young people and others, in a respectful and friendly manner
3. communicate with each child and young person at a level that suits the individual, using appropriate communication techniques and appropriate responses
4. promote positive behaviour in a fair, consistent, ethical and effective manner, valuing each child and young person’ individuality and diversity
5. implement group agreements, after discussion with and between children and young people on how they would like to be treated by/treat others
6. be attentive and supportive to the variety of emotions and attitudes that children and young people bring with them, or have, during play
7. take positive action to deter and challenge discrimination, through active observation and promotion, without compromising the rights of individuals to play
8. provide opportunities for the individual child or young person to achieve their potential, while avoiding the risk of controlling their direction or choice

Skills
SKAPW60 (H1)
Reflect to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team

The following key skills underpin the delivery and facilitation of playwork; the Playworker must:

1. promote a play environment which stimulates and provides opportunities for risk, challenge and the growth of confidence and self esteem
2. provide play opportunities within current legislative framework relevant to children’s and young people’s rights, health, safety and well-being
3. empower children and young people and support their right to make choices, discover their own solutions and to develop at their own pace and in their own way
4. actively listen and unobtrusively observe children and young people at play, remaining vigilant for any signs of distress or abuse and act according to the organisation’s and legal policies and procedures

Developed by SkillsActive
SKAPW60 (H1)
Reflect to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version number</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date approved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicative review date</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validity</td>
<td>Current</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Original</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Originating organisation</td>
<td>SkillsActive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original URN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant occupations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suite</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key words</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>