

## Qualifications for work with children

### Playwork

People who think that they would like to work with children and young people can do an orientation programme called Making Choices in working with Children, Young People and Families. The aim of the programme is to help participants to make an informed choice about choosing a career in working with children, young people and families, in order to enable the ongoing expansion of the children's workforce.

If, when a participant has completed, they decide they would like to work in the playwork field they could do, for example, Introducing Playwork, which consists of a 15 hour course plus a 10 hour placement. Satisfactory completion of the training is accepted by Ofsted as an adequate briefing for holiday playscheme staff for 1 year and can be used as a step towards a level 2 qualification.

The following tables give a variety of job roles and qualifications that can be achieved in the Playwork Sector:

<b>Playwork Qualifications</b>		
<b>Job Roles</b>	<b>Vocational qualifications</b>	<b>Work based</b>
<b>Level 2</b> Assistant: Playworker Holiday playscheme worker Adventure playworker	Level 2 Certificate in Playwork (CACHE, City and Guilds)  Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Playwork Practice (CACHE)  Level 2 Diploma in Playwork (City and Guilds)	NVQ level 2 in Playwork (C&G, CACHE Edexcel)
<b>Level 3</b> Senior playworker / co-ordinator Playwork leader	Level 3 Award in Playwork (CACHE)  Level 3 Certificate in Playwork (CACHE, City and Guilds)  Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (CACHE, City and Guilds)  Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Playwork Practice (CACHE)	NVQ level 3 in Playwork (C&G, CACHE, Edexcel)  Playwork Development (C&G and Cache)

	<p>Level 3 Award in Playwork for Early Years and Child Care Workers (CACHE, City and Guilds, Edexcel)</p> <p>NB please note this qualification was known as the Transitional Award during it's development</p>	
<p><b>Level 4</b></p> <p>Playwork manager</p> <p>Playwork development officer</p>		<p>NVQ level 4 Playwork (Edexcel)</p>

Adapted from QCA (2005)

<b>Job Role</b>	<b>Higher Education qualifications</b>
<p><b>Level 4</b></p> <p>Senior Practitioner Manager Development Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificate of Higher Education in Playwork by Distance Learning – University of Gloucestershire</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 5</b></p> <p>Senior Practitioner Senior Manager Senior Development Officer/ worker</p> <p>For those working as senior managers and development officers, perhaps leading a small local authority play team, responding to policy and operational issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playwork Sector Endorsed Foundation Degree – Leeds Metropolitan University, University of Brighton, Herts University</li> <li>• Dip HE in Playwork (distance learning) University of Gloucestershire</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 6</b></p> <p>Manager or Development Officer working at strategic level</p> <p>For those working as senior managers and development officers at strategic level, perhaps managing several, varied teams and significant resources in a large local authority play section</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BA (HONS) Playwork (distance learning) University of Gloucestershire</li> <li>• BA (HONS) Playwork – Leeds Metropolitan University</li> <li>• BA (HONS) Community Studies – Playwork – University of Wales College Newport</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graduate Diploma in Playwork (distance learning) University of Gloucestershire</li> <li>• BA (Joint HONS) Children Play and Playwork Studies +1 other related route in working with Children and Young People – Northumbria University</li> <li>• BA (HONS) Playwork – Sheffield Hallam University</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 7</b> Playwork Research and Development For those wishing to engage in advanced research and development, taking responsibility for the work of other professionals, leading activities and developing advanced skills and new approaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masters Degree by Research of Play and Playwork – Leeds Metropolitan University</li> </ul>

This table is subject to changes. The most up to date information on accredited qualifications can be obtained from QCA on [www.openquals.org.uk](http://www.openquals.org.uk) or the SkillsActive website [www.skillsactive.com](http://www.skillsactive.com)