

NCFE

CACHE

Purpose statement

**NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Playwork
(NVQ)
QN: 501/0997/2**

What does this qualification cover?

This qualification provides you with the core knowledge and skills needed to work in a senior role within play settings.

You will need to complete 13 mandatory units and approximately 2-3 optional units to achieve this qualification. From the mandatory units you will gain knowledge, understanding and skills in the following key areas of Playwork:

- Playwork Principles
- working within a play environment and support children's play
- health and safety
- safeguarding children
- teamwork.

From the optional units you will gain knowledge, understanding and skills in areas of your choice. These could include (but are not limited to):

- managing a budget
- supporting disabled children in a play environment
- supporting parents, families and carers
- supporting the travel of children outside the play environment.

The optional units provide you with the opportunity to specialise in specific areas that relate most closely to your interests and/or the working practices of your particular workplace.

Completion of this qualification is achieved through a combination of classroom- based learning and experience in the workplace.

All the units within this qualification are vocationally based, directly helping you gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required for playworkers at level 3 based on the National Occupational Standards.

There are no formal entry requirements for this qualification but you will need to be at least 18 years of age.

This qualification will take approximately 12-18 months to complete.

What knowledge and skills will this qualification give you?

Completion of this qualification will equip you with an in-depth understanding of Playwork values, and the importance of play and Playwork in children and young people's lives, allowing you to work unsupervised in a senior role within a range of play settings. You will gain knowledge and skills in a variety of areas related to play, for example:

- understanding the role of, and need for, play
- understanding how to balance requirements for health, safety and welfare with the need for stimulation, challenge and risk
- understanding how to respond to evidence or concerns that a child or young person has been abused or harmed
- understanding how to contribute to strategies, policies and procedures that reflect children and young people's rights
- understanding the possible impact of disability, specific requirements (additional needs) and attitudes on positive outcomes for children and young people
- understanding how to respond to accidents and other emergencies in a play environment
- being able to develop relationships with children and young people in a play environment.

Is this qualification right for you?

The qualification is ideal if you are an experienced playworker who has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of children and young people as well as an understanding and experience of applying Playwork Principles in children's play settings. It is suitable if you are working in, or wish to progress to, a senior role in Playwork settings.

If you are already working in a play setting this qualification could be undertaken to consolidate and extend your knowledge, understanding and skills. It will also confer your competence in your role as a senior playworker.

If you are on practical placement, this qualification will provide you with the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills that could support you to gain employment as a senior playworker.

You will need to be working, volunteering or on practical placement as you will need to show competence in both knowledge and skills.

Why should you take this particular qualification?

Our suite of Level 3 Playwork qualifications is made up of the:

- Level 3 Award in Playwork
- Level 3 Certificate in Playwork
- Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (NVQ)

If you want to gain an introduction to working in play settings in a senior role you should undertake the Award.

If you wish to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills within the Award, the Certificate will introduce you to new areas relevant to the sector. Both the Award and Certificate prepare you for employment in the role of a senior playworker.

The Diploma will confer occupational competence in the role of a senior playworker. It also includes units at level 4, preparing for and supporting progression to a level 4 qualification.

What could this qualification lead to?

This qualification provides you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to work in a level 3 unsupervised job role in play settings, and as supervisors to other staff in the following job roles:

- Breakfast and after school club deputy or manager
- Playwork development officer
- Adventure centre supervisor
- Hospital playworker.

If you are looking to continue studying after completion of this qualification, the Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (NVQ) provides you with the knowledge and skills related to working as an unsupervised playworker to progress to the:

- NCFE CACHE Level 4 Award and Certificate in Playwork
- NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Playwork
- a degree in a related area, e.g. Early Years.

Who supports this qualification?

The Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (NVQ) is supported by the following employers:

- Children 1st
- The Greater Manchester Play Resources Unit (Grumpy)
- Hackney Play Association
- Halton Play Council
- Little Tinklers
- North Downs Kidz
- St Francis School
- SureStart
- Tops Day Nurseries