



Passionate about playwork?

Get qualified to Level 3

# Funded Playwork training

The Level 3 Playwork Initiative is aiming to deliver the Children's Plan commitment to provide funded training for 4,000 playworkers to achieve Level 3 qualifications by 2011.

In partnership with SkillsActive and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has agreed funding provision for playworkers to start their fully financed training in 2009-2010.

This remains a fantastic opportunity for anyone wishing to advance their skills in playwork, and as funded places are limited we would encourage all employers to apply for funding as soon as possible.



Playworker Matt learns how to spin plates



Playworker Sharaz plays with children at Hanley Park

## Which qualifications are being funded?

- Level 3 NVQ in Playwork
- Level 3 Award in Playwork for Early Years and Childcare Workers (Transitional Awards)

## Playwork Level 3 NVQ

A National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) is a widely recognised, practical qualification undertaken while working, that shows achievement of a level of skills and knowledge necessary to do your job. The Playwork NVQ is based on practical, work-related tasks to demonstrate playwork competence based on the National Occupational Standards for the sector at Level 3.

## Programme completion time

The length of time to complete this programme varies and can take 9-12 months based on individual experience.

## Level 3 Award in Playwork for Early Years and Childcare Workers (Transitional Awards)

If you currently work in early years and childcare, but would like to develop a career that allows you to work across both settings, then this award might just be what you're looking for.

This award focuses on the critical differences between the knowledge and skills of someone who already holds a Level 3 qualification in early years and childcare, and will build in the additional knowledge and skills required in order to be effective in a playwork setting.

This Level 3 qualification has been developed to give early years practitioners the flexibility to work across both settings. By completing two units, you will be able to work in a supervisory/management position in either area. For example, as an early years practitioner, you may work in an extended school in an after school club.

## Programme completion time

This programme comprises of two units and takes approximately 60 hours to complete.

Dominic Wright, playworker at Greenwich Borough Council, enjoys what he does. He says:

**“Playwork is a rewarding career and I really feel like I make a difference.”**



## Sarah Emery



Sarah Emery is a play development manager at Stoke on Trent Council. She studied an NVQ Level 2 in Playwork at the age of 17. Her enthusiasm to become better qualified to work with children led her to study an NVQ Level 3 in Playwork, whilst working at an out of school club.

“I found a vocational course less stressful than having to worry about exams, the NVQ Level 3 allowed me to have a better understanding about playwork and opened up a lot of doors for me. I think it is really important for playworkers to be qualified to Level 3 in Playwork and these qualifications help to professionalise the sector.”



**“I have a passion for making a difference for children, and working in playwork allows me to do that. I love what I do, and wouldn't want to be anywhere else.”**

## Jo Bagley



Jo Bagley is a play development worker at Stoke on Trent Council. She always knew she wanted to work with children and had originally planned to become a mental health nurse.

After visiting a local careers fair, Jo learned more about the playwork sector and took up a job as a casual worker within the youth service at Stoke. Whilst she was working there, she undertook a playwork qualification at Level 2. Following that she went on to study an NVQ in Playwork at Level 3.

“I really like the fact that the course is flexible, being a single mum of a 2 year old boy makes my day very busy! I chose the Playwork Level 3 NVQ because I was never any good at exams and I liked the fact that the course is all assignments and assessments.”



**“I love everything about my job, it's different, fun. Just talking about it makes me smile.”**

# What's in it for me?

## Benefits for employers

Research has shown that, while the playwork workforce is well qualified, over half of employees hold no playwork specific qualification at all. The Level 3 qualifications will help to address this. Having a qualified workforce means improved quality of services, productivity and relations with children, young people and their parents and carers. This is a great opportunity to motivate your staff through training and will result in your employees feeling a sense of job satisfaction and recognition and enhance their career progression. This is a massive opportunity to effect a step change in your organisation and the sector.

## Benefits for employees

As an experienced playworker you may be able to progress to a supervisory or management role. In addition, the qualification will give you more confidence and enable you to demonstrate your skills and knowledge in your job.

Embarking on this qualification can be a way of validating the role(s) you have already fulfilled in your workplace. However, it can also be a way of broadening your work opportunities in order to be able to work across a range of settings and age groups, enabling progression across the children's workforce sector.

# Eligibility

## Playwork Level 3 NVQ

This programme is designed for those who already have the Level 2 NVQ or have significant experience in a play setting and are taking the Level 3 NVQ in Playwork qualification as their first award.

To be eligible for this qualification you need to:

- currently work or be about to start work in a playwork setting;
- be skilled in a wide range of complex tasks and demonstrate that you are capable of supervising others;
- be 16 years of age or over;
- be an established and experienced playworker;
- have access to a setting whose main purpose is playwork.

## Level 3 Award in Playwork for Early Years and Childcare Workers (Transitional Awards)

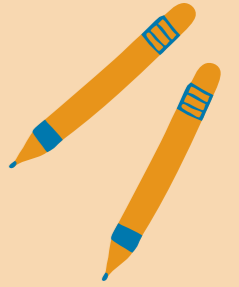
To be eligible for this qualification you need to:

- have a relevant Level 3 qualification, such as the Level 3 NVQ in Early Years Care and Education;
- currently work or would like to work in playwork settings;
- have access to a setting whose main purpose is playwork at the appropriate level of responsibility.

## What do I do next?

- complete the form opposite;
- return your form to the SkillsActive playwork strategy manager by either post or email;
- upon receipt, you will then be contacted by a provider who will arrange to deliver your training. If you have a preferred provider, please include their details.

# Response form



Please return this form to your SkillsActive playwork strategy manager for your area:

**Julia Fallowfield – Northern Tri-Region**  
(North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber)  
SkillsActive, 124 Skellingthorpe Road  
LINCOLN LN6 7QX  
Email: julia.fallowfield@skillsactive.com

**Steve Jolly – Midlands Tri-Region**  
(West Midlands, East Midlands and South West)  
SkillsActive, PO Box 14762  
BIRMINGHAM B45 5DB  
Email: steve.jolly@skillsactive.com

**Claire Mitchell – Southern Tri-Region**  
(South East, London and East)  
SkillsActive, Castlewood House  
77-91 New Oxford Street  
LONDON WC1A 1PX  
Email: claire.mitchell@skillsactive.com

Please note that this information will be shared with the Learning and Skills Council and CWDC.

Employer Contact
Organisation
Title
Address
Telephone
Email

Name	Qualification Required	Level	Age	Previous Highest Qualifications (in any subject)
1 eg. Jane Smith	NVQ in Playwork	L3	38	Award in Playwork L2
2 eg. George Jones	Award in Playwork	L3	23	Level 3 in Early Years and Childcare
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

The Children's Workforce Development Council leads change so thousands of professionals and volunteers across England can do the best job they possibly can.

SkillsActive is licensed by government as the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure and Learning. Led by employers, SkillsActive works across the Sport and Recreation, Health and Fitness, The Outdoors, Playwork, and Caravan industries – known as the active leisure and learning sector – to increase the demand for, the quality and the supply of skills provision, and to lobby funding agencies and policy makers for improvements to the sector.