



Play is an important part of children's and young people's development. Through play, they can experiment and learn about themselves, mix with others and build their self esteem. It also helps them use their imaginations and develop their creative skills. As a Playworker you could have many roles. However, the most important one is to plan play and leisure activities that enhance this development.

You could work in a number of different settings - usually outside school hours - including:

- Adventure centres
- After-school clubs in extended schools
- Breakfast clubs
- Leisure centres
- Hospital play settings
- Holiday playschemes



## What is a Playwork NVQ?

A National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) is a widely recognised, practical qualification you undertake while working, that shows you have achieved a level of skills and knowledge to do your job. The Playwork NVQ is based on the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Playwork and can be gained without you needing to attend classes, sit exams or take written tests.

Anyone can do an NVQ as long as you are 16 years of age or over. You also do not need any previous qualifications.

## How do I achieve an NVQ in Playwork?

To achieve an NVQ in Playwork, you will undertake units that cover the different areas of activities and skills needed when you are working with children in a playwork setting.

A CACHE approved assessor will observe you at work and talk to you about why you work in particular ways. This will show your knowledge and understanding of the job you are doing. You will also collect a portfolio of evidence from your day to day work such as witness statements, e-mails or reports and activity plans.

## Completing the Level 2 NVQ

Level 2 is for those who are working, or will be working, under supervision doing a wide range of activities. To achieve the Level 2 NVQ you will have to complete all four mandatory units and any two of the optional units shown below.

### Mandatory Units

- PW33 Support relationships in the play environment
- PW34 Work with children and young people to create play spaces and support freely chosen, self-directed play
- PW35 Contribute to the health, safety, security and welfare of children and young people using the play environment
- PW36 Help to improve your own practice and the work of your playwork team

### Optional Units

- PW25 Contribute to providing food and drink in the play environment
- PW26 Facilitate a specific play opportunity at children or young people's request
- PW27 Support the development of playwork opportunities in the community
- PW28 Contribute to supporting disabled children and young people in the play environment
- PW29 Support work with parents and carers in the play environment
- PW30 Carry out playwork in a school setting

## Completing the Level 3 NVQ

Level 3 is for those who already have the Level 2 NVQ or have significant experience in a play setting. You need to be skilled in a wide range of complex tasks and demonstrate that you are capable of supervising others.

To achieve the Level 3 NVQ you will have to complete all the mandatory units and any four of the optional units below.

### Mandatory Units

- PW6 Contribute to an organisational framework that reflects the needs and protects the rights of children and young people
- PW7 Develop and maintain a healthy, safe and secure environment for children
- PW8 Develop and promote positive relationships
- PW9 Plan for and support self-directed play
- PW10 Reflect on and develop practice

### Optional Units

- PW11 Work with colleagues in a team
- PW12 Respond to concerns about possible child abuse
- PW13 Contribute to children's health and well-being
- PW14 Work with parents and carers
- PW15 Administer playwork provision
- B226 Promote your organisation in the community
- B227 Contribute to evaluating, developing and promoting services
- B228 Organise and supervise travel
- A27 Manage a budget
- A319 Recruit, select and keep colleagues
- A321 Provide learning opportunities for colleagues
- A320 Allocate and monitor the progress and quality of work in your area of responsibility





# CACHE Level 2 and 3 NVQs in Playwork

## How can I be sure I am taking the right Level qualification?

If you are unsure about which Level of qualification you should undertake, your chosen Centre will be able to discuss this with you.

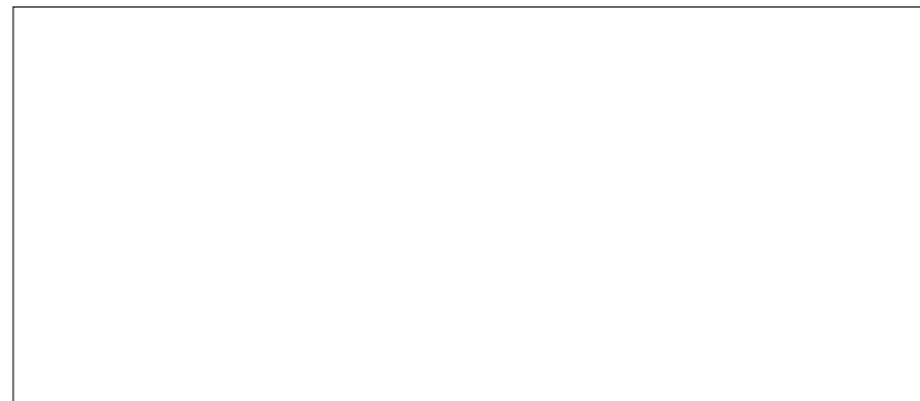
## Where are NVQs available?

NVQs in Playwork are available at CACHE approved Centres throughout the UK. To find your nearest Centre go to [www.cache.org.uk](http://www.cache.org.uk) to search our database or contact our friendly Customer Support Team on 0845 347 2123



## CACHE Mission Statement

To nurture achievement of children, young people and their families by raising the professional standard of those working with them.



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The ideal way of gaining a nationally recognised qualification in Playwork



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