

Why choose Playwork: Principles into Practice (P³)?

Playwork: Principles into Practice (P³) qualifications and course materials are internationally unique and have been exclusively developed by Play Wales and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

These consist of a level 2 and a level 3 playwork qualification. P³ qualifications share an approach that blends theory with practical playwork skills and offer learners the opportunity to put into practice and reflect upon what they have learnt.

P³ level 2 provides an accessible introduction to understanding play in children's lives and how we might facilitate it as playworkers. It outlines an approach based on the Playwork Principles and emphasises the skills, understanding and attitudes required by a playworker.

P³ level 3 aims to provide learners with a deeper understanding of the significance of play in children's lives and the role of the playworker in relation to the Playwork Principles. It provides the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to effectively support children's play and their own organisational practice required by a senior playworker / playworker in charge.

The following points highlight the key features of the qualifications. They summarise what makes the qualifications special.

Philosophy and Structure

- P³ is structured around the Playwork Principles (the sector endorsed professional and ethical framework for play) that

underpin the national occupational standards for playwork.

- P³ is truly play centred training where the needs of playing children come first.
- Inclusive playwork and meeting the play needs of disabled children are embedded throughout the P³ qualifications.
- The P³ learning materials have been written, designed and edited by some of the UK's leading playwork experts.
- P³ is modular in structure with the level 2 and level 3 qualification divided into three parts: Award, Certificate and Diploma. Each part can be delivered and accredited separately.
- P³ is on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) and is one of only two playwork vocational qualification suites available in Wales.
- P³ is available in both Welsh and English and Play Wales has developed new terminology in Welsh to support the understanding of playwork theory bilingually.

Learning

- P³ is a blend of theory and practice: learners will be able to explain what they do and why they do it and are expected to put into practice what they have learnt.
- P³ is unique in how it assesses learners; which sets it apart from other playwork qualifications. Assessment methods are tailored to the nature of the job role to ensure coherence between learning and practice.

- P³'s core competences (such as how learners facilitate play) are assessed through practice, while reflection and written questioning are used to assess underpinning knowledge.
- P³ is supported by a range of high quality materials including comprehensive learner handbooks and a specially commissioned film *Pushing Eddie into the Nettles with Connor* that features children playing in a variety of environments across Wales.

Delivery

- P³ is delivered by some of the most dynamic, inspirational playwork trainers in the UK. All P³ trainers are occupationally competent playworkers and qualified playwork trainers who have undergone additional specialised play trainer training delivered and assessed by Play Wales.
- The P³ learning experience is a dynamic interactive one that ensures learners will find it interesting and stimulating - whatever their learning style.
- P³ can be delivered in English or Welsh (including handbooks).
- P³ can be delivered flexibly to suit local need with both times and venues negotiable. It can be delivered either as a recognised qualification or as a slightly shorter straightforward training course.

What employers have said ...

Lisa Williams,
Play Team Co-ordinator, Gwent Association
of Voluntary Associations:

'(Since the training) the team is more reflective in their practice and they spend more time observing and evaluating the play sessions and how play opportunities can be extended. This has impacted on the children and young people, as the staff are better equipped and skilled to extend their play. Some staff who came from childcare backgrounds have had a complete change of mindset and through the training have really embraced the ethos of playwork.'

Debra Jones, Play Development Worker,
Valleys Kids

'The P³ training has made a huge difference to the playworkers; they are far more confident speaking to parents and others about the importance of play and the play process. Their practice has changed dramatically; there is more thought about how, when or if to intervene. They are more reflective about the play sessions, themselves and each other, they are more open and supportive of trying new things.'

What learners have said ...

'Really enjoying the course, the interactive elements are really good and I feel my confidence as a playworker is growing.'
Sophie Hodges, Adventure Playworker

'The P³ training I have received has been the most comprehensive and valuable training I have received to date. The course combines an excellent mix of activities and learning which is applicable in my playwork sessions.'
Chris Winwood, Inclusive Playworker



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