



A summary of...

The Playwork Principles

The Playwork Principles are the nationally recognised professional and ethical framework for playwork.



1. Children and young people (C&YP) have a deep, natural need to play. Play is essential for the health of individuals and communities.
2. Play is when C&YP decide for themselves how and where they will play, why they are playing, and what happens in their play.
3. Playwork is about enabling children and young people to make decisions about and have full control of their play. This should form the basis of all playwork strategy and training.

4. For playworkers, the process of play is the most important factor, and we support and promote play in all areas of our work.
5. The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in creating a space in which they can play.
6. The playworker uses reflective practice and their knowledge about the play process when responding to children's play.
7. Playworkers are aware that their presence has an effect on the play space; we are also aware of the C&YP's effect on us as playworkers.
8. Playworkers understand that it is important not to interrupt the play process unnecessarily ('adulteration'). Any intervention must balance risk with the benefit and wellbeing of the C&YP.



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