

Statement of Purpose

600/3264/9 – Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (NVQ) (QCF)

Playwork is a highly skilled profession that enriches and enhances children's play. It takes place where adults support children's play but it is not driven by prescribed education or care outcomes. There are 113,900 people working in the Playwork sector (SkillsActive SSA UK 2011). The SkillsActive UK Play and Playwork Education and Skills Strategy (2011-16) highlighted that 60% of employers in England say that there is a gap between the level of skill that they need to run their business and the level of skill that they currently have in their workforce. More than half of employers across the whole of the UK say that Playwork specific skills are hard to find in new recruits. This qualification aims to resolve recruitment issues by equipping learners to industry-recognised standards of competence.

The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (NVQ) (QCF) is part of a larger suite of Playwork qualifications, in a range of sizes, which share the common purpose of helping people to become occupationally ready to take up employment in the Playwork sector at the appropriate level. By studying a Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma, learners develop knowledge, understanding and skills required by the sector, including essential employability skills, and apply them in real work contexts. Learners can operate at a standard that can reasonably be expected of an 18 year old in full-time education or employment.

Within this suite, the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma (437 GLH) in Playwork is primarily a Technical Level qualification, a little bigger than one A level, which has been designed to contribute getting on for half of a two year programme of study, enabling learners to develop a significant common core of knowledge, including working with disabled children and young people, and promoting inclusive play, and providing some opportunity to study in more depth a range of option areas of their choice, such as the recruitment and supervising of staff. The Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Playwork (NVQ) (QCF) is also approved as a Competency Qualification by Skills Active in a range of advanced apprenticeship frameworks, or it can be studied part time by learners in schools, colleges and other training provider organisations.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sector, Skills Active. This means it is a highly respected route for those who wish to move into employment in the sector, either directly or following further study.