

Progression Pathways in Playwork – England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Workforce Scenarios	Level 2	Level 3	Higher Education, Level 4 and above
School leaver with no level 2 qualifications	▶▶ Level 2 Apprenticeship*	▶▶ Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship*	▶▶ Level 4 Certificate in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork/Level 4 Certificate of HE Playwork/Level 5 Foundation Degree in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma of HE Playwork/Level 6 BA(Hons) Playwork/Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork
School leaver with 5 GCSEs Grade C	▶▶	▶▶ Level 3 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork/Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship*	▶▶ Level 4 Certificate in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork/Level 4 Certificate of HE Playwork/Level 5 Foundation Degree in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma of HE Playwork/Level 6 BA(Hons) Playwork/Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork
Playworker who is working in a playwork setting with no qualifications in playwork or any other area	▶▶ Level 2 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork or Level 2 Apprenticeship*	▶▶ Level 3 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork or Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship*	▶▶ Level 4 Certificate in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork/Level 4 Certificate of HE Playwork/Level 5 Foundation Degree in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma of HE Playwork/Level 6 BA(Hons) Playwork/Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork
Playworker who has a level 2 qualification in playwork	▶▶	▶▶ Level 3 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork or Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship*	▶▶ Level 4 Certificate in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork/Level 4 Certificate of HE Playwork/Level 5 Foundation Degree in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma of HE Playwork/Level 6 BA(Hons) Playwork/Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork
Playworker with 2 or 3 A levels but no playwork qualification	▶▶	▶▶	▶▶ Level 4 Certificate in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork/Level 4 Certificate of HE Playwork/Level 5 Foundation Degree in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma of HE Playwork/Level 6 BA(Hons) Playwork/Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork
Playworker with level 3 playwork qualification	▶▶	▶▶	▶▶ Level 4 Certificate in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork/Level 4 Certificate of HE Playwork/Level 5 Foundation Degree in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma of HE Playwork/Level 6 BA(Hons) Playwork/Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork
Early years worker with Level 3 Children's Care, Learning & Development (CCLD) or Early Years & Childcare (based on CCLD national occupational standards)	▶▶	▶▶ Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork (from Early Years)	▶▶ Level 4 Certificate in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork/Level 4 Certificate of HE Playwork/Level 5 Foundation Degree in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma of HE Playwork/Level 6 BA(Hons) Playwork/Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork
Playworker with a level 5 in playwork as highest qualification	▶▶	▶▶	▶▶ Level 6 BA(Hons) Playwork/Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork/Level 7 Post Graduate Certificate In Playwork/Masters in Playwork
Playworker with degree in playwork as highest qualification	▶▶	▶▶	▶▶ Level 7 Post Graduate Certificate/Masters Degree in Playwork
Playworker with non playwork degree as highest qualification	▶▶	▶▶	▶▶ Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork/Level 7 Post Graduate Certificate in Playwork/Masters in Playwork
Early years trainer who has Level 3 Children's Care, Learning & Development (CCLD) or Early Years & Childcare (based on CCLD national occupational standards)	▶▶	▶▶ Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork (from Early Years)	▶▶ Level 4 Certificate in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork/Level 4 Certificate of HE Playwork/Level 5 Foundation Degree in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma of HE Playwork/Level 6 BA(Hons) Playwork/Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork
Parent or other volunteer working in a playwork setting	▶▶ Level 2 Award in Playwork/Level 2 Certificate in Playwork/Level 2 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork	▶▶ Level 3 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork	▶▶ Level 4 Certificate in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma (NVQ) in Playwork/Level 4 Certificate of HE Playwork/Level 5 Foundation Degree in Playwork/Level 5 Diploma of HE Playwork/Level 6 BA(Hons) Playwork/Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Playwork

Key to Qualifications

- *Apprenticeship:** this is the Apprenticeship in Active Leisure, Learning and Well-Being (playwork pathway).
- Diploma (NVQ):** so-called as it contains assessment of performance against agreed standards and, through this, provides evidence that the holder is occupationally competent.
- Playwork Foundation Degree (FdA):** comprises work based learning with some taught sessions usually in a college or university, at level 5.
- Certificate of Higher Education (HE):** equivalent to the first year of an honours degree, at level 4.
- Diploma of Higher Education (HE):** equivalent to the second year of an honours degree, at level 5.

BA(Hons) Playwork: usually taught in universities, often available part-time, distance learning available, at level 6.

Award in Transition to Playwork (from Early Years): offers knowledge and understanding of playwork but does not prove occupational competence. It is noted that some individuals complete the transitional award without doing any placement at all and undertaking a series of work placements would not necessarily give the required level of playwork experience required to meet occupational competence as defined for assessors and internal verifiers. We strongly recommend all playwork trainers and practitioners have regular face-to-face playwork practice as part of their on-going professional development.