National Progression Award

Playwork & Childcare

Jewel & Esk College

Candidate Information
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National Progression Award: Playwork and Childcare (SCQF 5)

The NPA: Playwork and Childcare is a new award developed by SQA. The NPA will supersede both the SPAs in Children’s Care and Play, and Accessing Playwork. This National Award is designed to equip candidates with the skills, knowledge and understanding required for employment or for progression to further academic and/or professional qualifications.

The NPA: Playwork and Childcare will provide:

- Common mandatory elements of study for various vocational pathways
- Choices of optional Units appropriate to the main career disciplines of each playwork and childcare occupation
- Flexible approaches within a national framework
- The opportunity to preserve and build upon existing good practice
- Compatibility with progression qualifications, eg Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ) in Playwork or Children’s Care, Learning and Development
- A response to changing training and educational needs
- Preparation for employment
- A contribution to the skills, knowledge and understanding required to underpin relevant National Occupational Standards (NOS) and SVQs
- A progression to higher level qualifications eg SVQ awards, NCs, HNCs
- A focus on the development of candidates practical skills, knowledge and understanding which underpins performance in the workplace

The Group Award consists of four mandatory Units and one optional Unit from a selection. Three of the mandatory Units have a single credit, and one has a double credit. The content of these units are considered to be key areas of learning to employers

The four mandatory Units are

- F2CR 11: Children and Young People: Rights and Protection
- F2CN 11: Working with Children and Young People (2 credits)
- F2CP 11: Children and Young People: The Process of Play
- F19L 11: Child Development and Health

The optional selected to be delivered by Jewel and Esk College is the unit

- DM65 11: Supporting Children with Additional Support Needs

The National Progression Award Playwork and Childcare can lead to employment within the Playwork and Childcare sector. SSSC recognise certain awards as suitable for registration requirements in the playwork and childcare sector. The NPA is recognised as a support workers registration qualification. Then this will enhance the employability of workers currently in the sector.

Jewel and Esk College will deliver the NPA to candidates supported by Mid and East Lothian Childcare Partnerships over a period of 52 weeks. The course will be delivered one evening per week at a venue agreed by members of the college staff and representatives of the partnership.
All candidates should be working under the supervision of someone registered with the SSSC at practitioner level in a suitable playwork or childcare setting and be able to complete the requirements of the work placement unit. They must adhere to the SSSC codes of practice. The workplace unit is a key component of this award, bringing together theory and practice and it is proposed that all candidates will be supported in the workplace by college staff through work place assessment visits. These visits are built into the delivery cost.

Candidates should have achieved English at General Level (3 or 4) or equivalent but under certain circumstances those who have Intermediate 1 may be considered.

Candidates will be assessed on the knowledge and skills developed in each Unit. Assessments may take a number of forms including reports, reflective accounts and developing folios of work and are provided by SQA. The practical Unit will help to develop skills in working with children and will be assessed on performance in the workplace.