



Training Course Overview

November 2014

BACKGROUND

PlayBoard NI is the lead organisation for the development and promotion of children and young people's play in Northern Ireland.

With 29 years' experience in the development and delivery of play based programmes, PlayBoard have developed a range of training programmes aimed at supporting those who work with children and young people to get the most from play.

Outdoor Play

This course provides participants with an opportunity to relook at outdoor play in an active way with a view to increasing the use of outdoor play within their setting.

Training is aimed at those working with children and young people who wish to explore and increase the amount and range of outdoor play they can offer. For more information please [click here](#).

Introduction to Playwork

This course aims to equip participants with the skills; knowledge and understanding that will help them to carry out their playwork practice more effectively.

Areas covered include identifying the needs of children; developing the understanding, skill and confidence to meet these needs and promoting the value base of playwork.

Areas covered include:

- Play and Playwork;
- Playwork principles;
- Supporting children's play;
- Building Relationships;

- Play types; and
- Loose parts.

Planning Play Opportunities

Aimed at staff whose main role is to provide opportunities for freely chosen, self-directed play; this course equips participants with the knowledge and skills they need to plan and implement play opportunities within a play environment.

Areas covered include:

- Planning for play opportunities;
- Involving children and young people in planning;
- Considering suitability based on the stage of development;
- Health and safety considerations; and
- Identifying suitable resources.

Engaging with parents, carers and families in a play environment

This course is aimed at supporting practitioners to engage more effectively with parents, carers and families in a playwork context.

Areas covered:

- To develop relationships with parents, carers and families;
- Methods of communication;
- Working with parents to support children and young people;
- Respecting the wishes of parents within the limitations of agreed procedures, values and children's rights;
- Confidentiality; and
- Dealing with issues or complaints in accordance with organisational procedures.

Play and Risk

This course aims to explore with playworkers how to manage the balance between risk and safety in settings; to explore the benefits of managing and balancing risk with the play value of different play opportunities; and how to develop risk assessment procedures that support this.

Areas covered:

- What is risk and what are hazards?
- Barriers to providing challenging play opportunities;
- How to provide more challenging play opportunities;
- Looking at the factors that affect playworkers' judgment;
- How to encourage children to assess risk themselves; and
- Undertaking risk benefit assessments.

Promoting Physical Play

This course aims to support practitioners in providing opportunities for physical play by exploring play types and how to meet the physical play needs of children and young people.

Areas covered include:

- Developmental stages and play needs based on this;
- Planning for physical play;
- How and when to facilitate physical games;
- New ideas for games and ideas for physical play; and
- How to adapt to meet needs (age, ability, space, resources).

Creative Play

This course aims to explore a range of creative ways to support play for children and young people. By using materials in new and innovative ways and offering creative and exciting things to make and do a number of different play types can be supported.

Areas covered include:

- Loose parts;
- Play types;
- Using materials in new ways;
- Supporting exploration;
- Supporting inclusion of all children in these activities;
- Making creative activities stimulating for mixed ability and different age groups;
- Risk benefit assessment involved in planning for this play; and
- 100 new ideas for things to make and do.

Reflective Practice in Playwork

This course aims to explore the purpose of individual and team reflective playwork practice; the purpose of observing children playing and how to carry out observations that help with reflective practice by the Playworker.

Areas covered include:

- What is reflective practice?
- Different methods of reflection;
- The relationship of organisational and team culture to reflective practice;
- The role of observation in reflection;
- How to carry out and record observations; and
- Playwork theory that supports reflective practice.

Behaviour management in School Aged Childcare settings

The aim of this course is to support Playworkers to explore the issue of challenging behavior. Areas covered include:

- Reviewing the different ways children communicate;
- Review the way adults communicate;
- Exploring the role of the Playworker in managing behaviour;
- Reviewing the physical and affective environment; and
- Reviewing strategies for promoting positive behaviour.



FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on any of our training programmes, to discuss your individual needs or to book a training session please contact:

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