When following the Playwork Principles, it is the Playworker's role to support and facilitate children and young people's play by providing the appropriate space and resources.

Playworkers choose appropriate intervention styles which balances risk with the developmental benefit and well-being of children.

A risk benefit assessment will always be carried out before a session.

Please note - Playworkers facilitate play sessions and parents/carers/ accompanying adults are responsible for supervising children.

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

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The Playwork Principles

The Playwork Principles

1

All children and young people need to play. The impulse to play is innate. Play is a biological, psychological and social necessity and is fundamental to the healthy development and well-being of individuals and communities.

2

Play is a process that is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. That is, children and young people determine and control the content and intent of their play, by following their own instincts, ideas and interests, in their own way for their own reasons.

3

The prime focus and essence of playwork is to support and facilitate the play process and this should inform the development of play policy, strategy, training and education.

4

For playworkers, the play process takes precedence and playworkers act as advocates for play when engaging with adult led agendas.

5

The role of the playworker is to support all children and young people in the creation of a space in which they can play.

6

The playworker's response to children and young people playing is based on a sound up to date knowledge of the play process, and reflective practice.

7

Playworkers recognise their own impact on the play space and also the impact of children and young people's play on the playworker.

8

Playworkers choose an intervention style that enables children and young people to extend their play. All playworker intervention must balance risk with the developmental benefit and well-being of children.

The Playwork Principles were developed by the Playwork Principles Scrutiny Group, Cardiff 2005.