

# Health Play Specialist

Level: 5  
Duration: 27 months

**Health Play Specialists use therapeutic play interventions to support children and young people receiving medical treatment in healthcare environments.**

## Apprenticeship overview

You will learn how to alleviate the anxiety, fear, and trauma associated with hospitalisation and illness. This standard trains you to design preparation, distraction, and coping strategies that help young patients understand and undergo clinical procedures.

## Core skills, knowledge and behaviours you will learn

- Child development, psychology, and the impact of illness/hospitalisation
- Theoretical models of therapeutic play and recreation
- Designing play interventions for distraction, procedural preparation, and post-procedural support
- Communication techniques tailored to diverse age groups and developmental needs
- Safeguarding and child protection in clinical settings
- Working collaboratively within multidisciplinary medical teams (doctors, nurses, therapists)

## Where you might work

- Pediatric hospital wards and children's hospitals
- Neonatal and intensive care units
- Community health centres and clinics
- Children's hospices

## Typical job roles

- Health Play Specialist
- Hospital Play Specialist
- Therapeutic Play Practitioner



## Good to know

The role demands profound emotional resilience, as you will work with seriously, chronically, or terminally ill children

Creativity and adaptability are crucial; you must tailor play interventions to each child's physical and cognitive limits

Registered status is typically achieved via the Healthcare Play Specialist Education Trust (HPSET)