

Unit 7

Support Children and Young people to achieve their learning

1.1 Describe the legislation that affects children and young people's access to education and learning opportunities

The Education Act 1944 came in to provide free schooling at secondary level and then raising of the school leaving age (ROSLA) was later raised to 16. Recently this has been raised to 17 from 2013 and then to 18 from 2015.

It is the responsibility of the Local Education authority to find a place for any child up to the age of 16 and if a space cannot be found then home tuition should be made available to them. With regards to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA), this identifies that children with SEN do have the same rights to an education but in some circumstances with SEN children an offer should be made for that child to be placed in a special needs school.

1.2 Explain how policies have influenced access to learning opportunities for children and young people

The Education Act of the UK has allowed children and young people to have access to free education allowing them to learn, develop and educate themselves to be able to think and understand the world around them. If a parent or guardian decides not to send their children to mainstream education schools or a special school then they must provide evidence that they are competent to teach their child to a sufficient standard.

However this has both advantages and disadvantages attached to it. The positive could be that you can teach them the school syllabus to a better standard than the school, give more attention and clearer instructions, develop respect, increase family unity and closeness, encourage independent thinking, hours are flexible and vacations can be taken during school term to get better travel package deals and experience from going out on outings more frequently can enhance a better awareness and visualisation to assist learning.

The question then arises, do you have experience in all the different subjects taught at school to teach your child and have the resources to pay for the trips. Other disadvantages could be that the lack of friends, interaction made with a large group of children of a similar age, playing together, talking, having a laugh, being excited and experiencing the different emotions which aid the development of children and this could be lost and never discovered.

Therefore, these identified factors may have a long lasting effect on a children's psychology and emotions and thus affect their full potential to their learning opportunities at different levels.

4.1 Explain the importance of engaging carers in children and young peoples learning

Engaging carers is one of the strongest influences on a child's learning attainment and life chances. Youth centers need to open their doors to parents and carers to support and engage in their youth work programme as this will assist young people's maturity to becoming less dependent, to think for themselves, to make positive decisions and to be more clear in making life choices.

This also has a huge potential to being a useful youth work tool, so it needs to be carefully planned, ensuring that everyone feels welcomed, participants can participate positively, particularly those hard to reach and make the work programme move forward.

The engagement programme will also breakdown barriers, improve rapport and interaction as well as improve attitude and aspiration for a better outcome. We also find that research and evidence suggests that parental involvement continues to have a significant effect on achievement into adolescence and even in adulthood. Parents become good supporting role models that can assist their children in their difficulties, stresses of life and identify their needs to deal with their issues better and rectify them before they come to a crisis point.

4.2 Identify key professionals and their roles in supporting and developing children and young people's learning

1. Teachers – Providing formal education to increase knowledge and excel in academia
2. Youth workers – Providing informal education and experiences as well as learning opportunities to make positive life choices
3. Private tutors – booster classes to increase levels of achievement to a higher standard
4. SEN carers and support workers – Assisting those less fortunate to be able to learn on the same level as their peers and excel
5. Careers advisors – Preparing young people for work
6. Citizen advice bureau – Assisting people in difficulties and in need
7. Transition Support Worker – Helping young people understand issues affecting their lives and create a development plan to improve themselves

4.3 Explain the importance of effective communication between all those involved in a child or young persons learning

Effective communication is a very important tool which allows youth workers to understand matters better especially when dealing with young people so that the right approach can be taken to deal with them positively and that the learning process is not affected. Youth workers need to give young people the opportunity to be listened to and plan accordingly to their needs as this allows them to make responsible decisions that can assist them later on in life.

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) which was developed as a result of the Children's Act 2004 and allows different practitioners to gather information and assess individual needs. Then a group of practitioners gather to create a Team Around the Child (TAC) who now work together to avoid duplication and assist in complementing each other in the different action plans and pathways to learning and development. Together they provide each other and relevant agencies with the tools to communicate and work together more effectively in providing the necessary support for the child/young person and their family.

The CAF and TAC team have been designed to promote integrated working, sharing intelligence, history and allowing family participation across all levels of needs through effective communication. They are both key elements of the Team Around the Child Model that aim to improve the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

On the other hand all those that are involved in a young persons learning experience need to understand that the young person also needs to be heard and that is their right as a young person.