

A career in Childcare and Early Years

Working with children is rewarding as a career. As a childcare practitioner you will have the privileged opportunity to influence development and learning, enable healthy holistic growth, and improve outcomes for children and their families. There are opportunities for career progression in childcare and early years.

Sectors to explore

An understanding of child development, education and care needs can help you progress in a variety of different sectors and job roles. Here are just a few to get you started:

Early Years Workforce

There are many opportunities for employment within the early years workforce. Each role has defined responsibilities. Regardless of your role as part of the workforce you will support and inspire children as they grow and develop, preparing them for their school environment. You will need to create an environment which is enabling and secure whilst working within statutory requirements as part of a professional team.

Supporting Teaching and Learning

Working alongside teaching staff as part of a professional team, you could be responsible for working 1:1 or with small groups of children to deliver educational activities and experiences, supporting with their creativity and learning.

Playwork

Play provision is vital to holistic child development. As a Playworker you will support children to follow their own ideas and interests through play whilst maintaining a caring and safe environment.

Homebased Childcare

Childminder

You will be offering professional care within a home-based setting, supporting the learning and development for children of all ages and from different families. You will work in line with statutory requirements with regard to safeguarding and welfare needs of the child.

Nanny

You will be working closely with parents and carers to provide personalised childcare in the child's/children's home environment. This role may include some household duties.

Routes to success

If you choose to study child development, education and care, there are a number of routes you can take to further your career such as:

Further study at college or university

You could choose to broaden your knowledge of child development, education and care by studying a Level 3 qualification, this may give you the opportunity to progress to higher education at university.

Apprenticeships

You will be working to a set programme of learning whilst earning money during an Intermediate or Advanced Apprenticeship for the Children and Young People's Workforce. This will provide you with a structured training period with a qualification at the end of your time there.

Where next?

We understand the amount of information out there can be daunting. To help, we have provided a list of useful websites for you to visit:

The National Careers Service website offers an overview of many different careers. It is a great starting point to help you take your first step towards planning your career. www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

All About Careers includes really useful information about specific career opportunities. You can also take a career 'test' which will give you ideas about industries you might want to explore further based on your answers. www.allaboutcareers.com

The National Apprenticeship Service offers information about what apprenticeships are and how they work. It's particularly useful as a general introduction and to help you and your parents understand the opportunities and apprenticeship offers. www.getingofar.gov.uk

UCAS is an independent charity providing information, advice, and admissions services to inspire and facilitate educational progression. www.ucas.com

Other technical qualifications to consider include:

At school

- **NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Award** in Child Development and Care (603/3293/1)
- **NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Award** in Health and Social Care (603/3294/3)

At sixth form or college

- **NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma** in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator) (601/8437/1)
- **NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Certificate** in Childcare and Education (601/8436/X)
- **NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma** in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator) (601/8438/3)
- **NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Certificate** in Working with Children in Early Years and Primary Settings (603/3292/X)
- **NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Certificate** in Childcare and Education (601/8436/X)

- **NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma** in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator) (601/8438/3)
- **NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma** in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator) (601/8438/3)
- **NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Certificate** in Health and Social Care (601/8434/6)
- **NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Extended Diploma** in Health and Social Care (601/8435/8)
- **NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Award** in for Early Years, Childcare and Education (603/2987/7)
- **NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Certificate** for Early Years, Childcare and Education (603/2987/7)
- **NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Award** in Health and Social Care (603/2913/0)
- **NCFE CACHE Level 3 Applied General Certificate** in Health and Social Care (603/2914/2)

This is just the **beginning...**