



LEVEL 2: EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER

Apprenticeships in Early Years settings

Working in nursery, pre-school or reception class

The first step to a rewarding career supporting young children as they learn develop and prepare for school.

The Level 2 Early Years Practitioner standard apprenticeship will equip learners with the knowledge, skills and behaviours to assist the qualified Early Years Foundation lead.

This course is a comprehensive programme that serves as an access course for the Level 3 Early Years Educator apprenticeship programme. Learners must be able to demonstrate competency in all areas of child development before being eligible for the Level 3 progression pathway.

As part of the Level 2 Early Years Practitioner Standard, apprentices will gain an NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner qualification

Ideal candidates for this course include those who:

- Posses a passion for supporting children from birth to five years
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Have a desire to improve the lives of others

Learners will be expected to deliver on a number of areas which will have an impact across their setting.

- An understanding of how babies and young children learn and develop
- The importance of holistic development including cognitive, speech, language and communication, physical, emotional, and social development.
- An understanding of how to support assessment and planning and provide an enabling environment for babies and young children.
- Understanding of Safeguarding, child protection and promoting the well-being welfare of all babies and young children, including those with additional needs.
- How to work co-operatively with parents/carers, colleagues, and other professionals to enhance babies and young children's learning, enabling them to make progress.

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How will apprentices be assessed?

- Guidance is provided at every step of the apprentice's journey to ensure they know what is expected.
- Completion of a series of assessment-based projects and activities that form their portfolio.
- Demonstration of competence during an End Point Assessment (EPA)

Training at school will involve Employers who offer support by:

- Allowing independent study time for the apprentice.
- Assisting with preparation for assessments and 'Gateway'.
- Delivering progress reviews and monitoring of the apprentice in the workplace.

Mentorship

Support and nurturing is the cornerstone of every apprenticeship. That's why having an Apprentice Mentor is vital. The Mentor will be someone within the setting who can provide on-site support and, depending on the apprentice's experience and level of apprenticeship, assess, review, and support the responsibilities they are undertaking.

What are the desired entry requirements?*

An apprentice might be expected to have already achieved:

- Grade C or above or 4/5 (New Grading) At GCSE In Maths
- Grade C or above or 4/5 (New Grading) At GCSE In English

*If a learner does not have the desired entry grades, then there is a requirement for them to attain or be working towards a Level 1 Functional Skills, prior to 'gateway' and to show evidence of working towards a Level 2 in both of the above.

How is this course delivered?

- A curriculum model that works for schools has been created that includes a blended experience of live teaching sessions, online master classes, and practical research tasks.
- All apprentices will be provided with a structured training programme that will equate to at least 6 hours a week of their time (based on a 30 hour a week) This is delivered creatively by the Lead Tutor to align with setting and learner needs.

Off the job training includes:

- Attending training sessions led by a qualified teacher/tutor.
- Completing a portfolio of evidence based on the completion of research and project-based tasks.

How much does the apprenticeship cost?

Utilise the school Apprenticeship Levy* to fully fund the apprenticeship.

What is the duration of the apprenticeship?

The course lasts for 13 to 15 months including EPA and qualification verification.

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