

Careers In Childcare

Working in the childcare sector can be challenging but also extremely rewarding. Some of the benefits include having the opportunity to teach something new to children and seeing them develop from babies to young people. You will build amazing relationships and have the opportunity to earn money from doing something you enjoy. The hours can be really flexible and the joy of seeing children's faces when they have achieved a new skill is priceless.

Reasons to work in childcare:

1. The opportunity to teach something new.
2. Seeing children develop from babies to young people.
3. Build relationships.
4. A chance to earn money from doing something you enjoy.
5. Flexible hours to fit in around family commitments.
6. Seeing the children's faces when they have achieved a new skill.



Skills Required

There are a number of essential skills that are required to work in the childcare and early years sector. These include:

- Enjoying being with children.
- Having a good level of spoken and written English.
- Patience.
- A great imagination.
- A positive and friendly approach.
- Good communication and listening skills.
- Being a good team member.



Childcare Roles

There are many different career options within the childcare and early years sector, these include:

Working in a home-based environment

- Childminder - This is someone who looks after children in their own home and is self-employed. Childminders are qualified professionals and must be registered with Ofsted or a childminding agency.
- Childminding Assistant - Employed by a childminder to assist them in caring for children.
- Nanny - This is where you look after a child or children in their family home. It is optional to be registered and you do not necessarily need formal qualifications.



Working in a non-domestic setting

- Nursery Assistant - Working in a nursery setting, you can be employed as qualified or unqualified.
- Play Worker - This can include roles such as working in out of school clubs, breakfast clubs, after school clubs or holiday play schemes. Within these roles you could be working in a school, community centre or leisure centre.
- Teaching Assistant - Working to assist teachers with students, a teaching assistant is a rewarding role in a school environment. Previous experience in childcare, play work or youth work may be an advantage.
- Pre-School Assistant - Caring for children ages 2-4 years, often morning sessions and/or afternoon sessions. Some have lunch clubs.
- Children's Centre Worker - Working with families. Setting up stay & plays, running crèches whilst parents access other services such as parenting courses.



Men in the early years workforce

It's true that men still make up a small minority of staff in early childhood education in the UK (and the rest of the world). But things are changing. Some employers are actively looking for male staff; many others would be delighted to consider male applicants, and remember that legally, no employer could reject you - or otherwise discriminate against you because of your sex. The MITEY (Men In The Early Years) project campaigns for greater gender diversity in the childcare sector. You can read case studies of men working in this field, and find a list of employers which have signed the MITEY Charter, at <https://mityuk.org/>

Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS)

If you are working with pre-school age children, you will need to have some knowledge of the EYFS.

The early years foundation stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old.

All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes.

Professionals working with the youngest children will focus on the prime areas, although not exclusively, as none of the areas are developed in isolation. For example everyday activities such as singing with babies or setting the table with toddlers can aid learning in literacy or mathematics.



Qualifications Needed

Completing a qualification in childcare will help you to understand more about your role and the environment you work in, enhancing the service you provide to children and their families.

Vocational qualifications, training and apprenticeships

- Level 2 or 3 qualification in childcare - You can complete online, through your local college or on the job.
- Higher education - If you've already gained a level 3 qualification, you might want to consider going on to complete a degree in childcare and early years.
- Preparing to work in home-based childcare (HBCA) - Specifically aimed at those who want to become a childminder or nanny, doing PACEY's HBCA is a great way to help you begin a career in home-based childcare. It covers how to work with children effectively and manage your business. It also comes with three months free PACEY membership.
- Apprenticeships - Working with children and young people is an increasingly popular area for apprentices. You could be an apprentice teacher, teaching assistant, childminding assistant or early years educator.



Becoming a Childminder

Want to learn more about becoming a childminder? Discover all you need to know in our guide to childminding, including what childminders do, becoming a childminder, how much it costs, working with other childminders and real stories you can relate to.

Click the link below and watch this short video to discover all the information you need.

[CLICK HERE](#)



Funding your training

Apprenticeships

Working with children and young people is an increasingly popular area for apprentices. You could be an apprentice teacher, teaching assistant, childminding assistant or early years educator. Playing a vital role in enabling children to get the most out of education in a school or nursery setting. Earning money while you study for an early years qualification is a great option.



Government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee - From 1 April 2021 eligible adults will be able to take courses and qualifications free of charge as part of the Government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee offer in England. There are around 400 qualifications available in a range of sectors, including Level 3 courses in early education and childcare.

Ask your work coach - Talking to your work coach about any opportunities for funded training, work schemes or apprenticeships is a great place to start.

Ask your local college - Many colleges and adult further education institutes offer concessions or payment plans for certain courses. Many are also taking part in the Lifetime Skills Guarantee scheme. It is worth having a conversation to find out if you could get access to courses at a reduced rate or even free.

Useful Links

If you want to find out more about working in childcare, here are some useful links;

Childminder support -

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/childminders>

Working in home-based childcare award (HBCA) -

www.pacey.org.uk/HBCA

Men in childcare and early years -

<https://mityuk.org/>

Nursery support -

www.pacey.org.uk/nurseries

Nanny support -

www.pacey.org.uk/nannies

Find out more about PACEY membership –

www.pacey.org.uk/join

www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder

www.gov.uk/government/publications/find-a-free-level-3-qualification/list-of-free-level-3-qualifications-available-to-eligible-adults

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/teaching-assistant

www.cache.org.uk/our-qualifications-and-services/playwork

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>