

A career in Child Development and Early Years

Working with children and young people is truly rewarding. 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 is plenty of room to grow in childcare, and every day is different.

Sectors to explore

An understanding of Childcare and Development and Early Years can help you progress in a variety of different sectors and job roles. Here are just a few to get you started:

Childminder or Nanny

You will be offering professional care within a home-based setting, supporting the early learning and development for children of all ages and from different families. Childminders and Nannies work closely with parents and carers to provide personalised childcare.

Early Years Practitioner

As an Early Years Practitioner, 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, and use imagination to help children to engage with 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 with small groups of children to deliver educational activities and experiences, supporting with their creativity and learning.

Playwork

Caring for and supervising children to make sure they are safe and happy can be incredibly rewarding. You will plan and organise play and leisure activities and be responsible for setting up areas, materials and equipment. You will also support children to follow their own ideas and interests through play.

V Certs and other qualifications to consider include:

At school

- **NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award**
in Child Development and Care

At Sixth form or college

- **NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma**
in Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator)
- **NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Certificate**
in Childcare and Education
- **NCFE CACHE Technical Level 3 Diploma**
in Early Years Education and Care (Early Years Educator)

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

Routes to success

If you choose to study Child Development and Early Years, 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 and Early Years with a Level 3 qualification in Childcare and Education or you may wish to specialise in something like supporting individuals with learning difficulties.

• 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 included a small collection of useful websites for you to visit:

The National Careers Service website offers an overview of many different careers. It's 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 an apprenticeship offers. www.getingofar.gov.uk

Not Going to Uni is a website that aims to offer a full range of options and choices if you feel that university is not the route for you. www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

Which University? is a website that can help you decide what to study, where to study and how to get there. www.university.which.co.uk

REED Salary Checker can help if you are curious about what your earning potential could be in your chosen career. www.reed.co.uk/average-salary