

Thinking about an Apprenticeship in Childcare?

What is an Apprenticeship?

An Apprenticeship is one way to train towards a childcare qualification

As an apprentice you will learn on the job, acquiring hands on experience and a nationally recognised NVQ childcare qualification. You will also get a wage at the same time.

Apprenticeships are available to young people aged 17 – 24 who are leaving or who have left full-time education.

What does an Apprenticeship involve?

You will be employed in a childcare setting for a minimum of approximately 30 hours a week (although this will vary depending on your circumstances). Your employer will teach you the skills that you require for the job, and you will need to demonstrate that you are competent in your role, both to your employer, and to an assessor who will come and work with you.

As well as being assessed through observations, you will need to complete assignments that we set for you.

In addition to the practical side, you will work on **Key Skills**, such as Communication, Number, Information Technology and Problem Solving; and a **Technical Certificate**, which will prove that you fully understand the theory behind your job. You will usually train in **First Aid** and **Basic Food Hygiene** also.

Considerations

- Doing an Apprentice is just one way to enter the childcare profession. Apprenticeship are not suited to everyone, If you have had previous experience of working with children, or have helped raise younger brothers and sisters, etc, you may be better suited to the apprenticeship, as you will be able to demonstrate some competency towards the job role.
- Although your employer will give you as much support as possible, it will be necessary for you to complete work assignments set by your assessor, in a given amount of time. This will involve some work at home, and you will need to make sure that you organise your time well, so that it is completed to the highest standard.
- With an apprenticeship you will only get work experience with 1 employer, some employers allow their apprentices to gain experience with children of differing age ranges within the setting – this will depend on where you are employed.

How do I go about becoming an Apprentice?

There are a few ways to become an Apprentice:

- Contact us (Wessex Training and Assessment Ltd) and we will give you an initial assessment, and discuss whether it is best for you to do a level 2 or 3 Apprenticeship, or whether you would be better suited to another training course.
- Gain some regular work experience in a childcare setting, and approach us about taking you on as an Apprenticeship.

Complete the information sheet or contact us from the details listed in the “About us” page.