

Factsheet 5

Children's Care, Learning and Development

National Apprenticeship Service

Overview

The Children's Care, Learning and Development Sector is for people who work with children aged from 0 to 16 years (and their families) in settings or services whose main purpose is children's care, learning and development (e.g. Nursery).

Since the introduction of the National Childcare Strategy in 1997, the sector has increased massively. It has been estimated that in the UK the children's day care nurseries market was worth £2.7 billion in 2003. The children's nurseries market has grown rapidly in the last 10 years, and is now more than seven times the size it was at the end of the 1980s.

Increasing demand from working mothers as well as government investment has led to a boost of provision of early years care, education and play work settings.

You can expect to earn £9,000 as a starting salary rising to £12,000 once qualified.

What is an Apprenticeship

An Apprenticeship is a mix of real work and learning. Apprentices earn a wage and get experience whilst working towards a number of qualifications. An Apprenticeship follows a Level 2 programme and can lead onto an Advanced Apprenticeship which is a Level 3 programme.

Example Job Roles as an Apprentice

- Nursery Assistant
- Play Group Assistant
- Nursery Nurse
- Playgroup Leader
- Child Minder

Apprenticeship Framework

There are a number of elements to each Apprenticeship and this is called the framework. Each Apprenticeship framework has three main strands:

- competence based element
- technical element
- skills element

The three strands are sometimes accompanied by additional qualifications to give the most relevant skills and knowledge required for the job.

Competence Element

Apprenticeship – NVQ Level 2 in Children’s Care, Learning and Development

Advanced – NVQ at Level 3 in Children’s Care, Learning and Development

Technical Element

Apprenticeship – Certificate in Children’s Care, Learning and Development Level 2

Advanced – Certificate in Children’s Care, Learning and Development Level 3

Skills Element

Apprenticeship – Communication Level 1
Application of Number Level 1

Advanced – Communication Level 2
Application of Number Level 2

Other Additional Study

Paediatric/Child Care First Aid qualification
Employment Rights and Responsibilities

Apprenticeships Available

- Apprenticeship (12 months) ✓
- Advanced Apprenticeship (24 months) ✓
- Higher Apprenticeship X

Progression Routes

- Advanced Apprenticeship
- Further Education
- Higher Education
- Supervisory and management positions

Options within the Framework

- Additional option – Food Hygiene certificate

Already Employed?

Are you currently employed but not working towards qualifications? Speak to your employer about converting to an Apprenticeship and ask them to call 08000 150 600 for more information.

For more Information and to Apply

Visit:

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

www.cwdcouncil.org.uk

If you require further advice or support on Apprenticeships please contact your local Connexions or Careers Advice Service.