

# A Career In Childcare - Nursery Assistant

## What is a Nursery Assistant?

A nursery assistant is involved in all aspects of care for children including their emotional, intellectual, social and physical development.

Nursery Assistants work in a variety of settings such as children's centres, private day nurseries, nursery & special schools, hospitals and in a nursery class in the maintained & independent sector.

## What do Nursery Assistants do?

A nursery assistant will be expected to contribute to a programme of activities for the children in their care. They will be responsible for the children's well being, safety and physical care, which will include feeding and changing babies.

## Work Activities?

- Assist in the supervision of the children at play;
- To assist with washing and changing children;
- Undertake shared responsibilities for the health, hygiene & cleanliness throughout the nursery;
- Operate the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness in the bedding, nappy changing and food service areas;
- Assist in the care, maintenance and security of all equipment and toys within the nursery;
- Develop positive relationships with parents, staff and outside agencies; and
- To understand and implement the National Day Care Standards.



## Qualities, Skills, & Abilities

- To enjoy playing a key role in babies and children's lives;
- To be patient, energetic and enthusiastic;
- To be caring and understanding;
- To be friendly and cheerful;
- To be prepared to get dirty and messy;
- To be willing to work hard;
- To be able to listen and observe;
- To be able to play;
- To have an imagination;
- To have good communication skills;
- To have lots of energy;
- To be able to act with tact and diplomacy;
- To be able to build good working relationships; and
- To be aware of health and safety issues involved in the care and support of children.

All professionals working with children must be physically fit and hold an enhanced certificate of disclosure issued by the Criminal Records Bureau.

## How Do I Become A Nursery Assistant?

There are several routes to qualifying as a nursery assistant.

Most people tend to work on a voluntary or paid capacity as an assistant in a nursery and gain a qualification alongside working with children.

An alternative route could be to apply for a modern apprenticeship with your local college.

**If you require any further information, please telephone  
0800 731 1518 or visit [www.childcarelink.gov.uk/oldham](http://www.childcarelink.gov.uk/oldham)  
or [www.oldham.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/childcare)**

