

A Career In Childcare

Working with Children in a Nursery

What is nursery work?

Men and women of all ages and from all kinds of backgrounds work in nurseries. Whichever nursery you work in, you will be working as part of a team, planning, organising, and providing stimulating, educational and fun environment and taking care of the children's personal needs, such as feeding, washing and sleeping.

You will also be working in partnership with parents and carers discussing appropriate issues relating to their child and making sure he or she has the best possible care in an encouraging and safe environment.

You will need:

- Patience;
- Enthusiasm;
- Understanding;
- A caring nature;
- Stamina;
- Commitment;
- Knowledge of child development; and
- Good communication skills.

Four facts about nurseries:

Nurseries usually provide all-day care for babies and children up to the age of five;

They are generally open from 8 am to 6 pm but some open from 7 am to 7 pm or longer;

Most are open all year round, except for weekends and bank holidays; some are open term-time only (such as college nurseries); and

There are all kinds of nurseries – some run privately, others by the local authority, voluntary or community groups, schools, colleges or employers.



Do I need experience and qualifications?

Most nurseries are looking for unqualified as well as qualified staff. (By law at least 50% of their staff must be qualified). But recognised training and qualifications equip you with the skills you need to do your job well and the knowledge to appreciate a child's development. National qualifications will also open doors for you in working with children anywhere in the country.

There is a range of training available at all levels in early years care and education leading to NVQs and college-based qualifications. Young people can train 'on-the-job' maybe as an Early Years Modern Apprentice. You should be able to find full-time, part-time or work based training that can fit in with your lifestyle. Much of the training can take place on the job, in your nursery, as you work.

You may choose to do a full time college course with short-term placements or a part time course in the evenings.

As a trainee, you will usually start in a supervised job role as a nursery assistant, working towards a Level 2 qualification in Early Years Care & Education. You could then move on to a Level 3 qualification in Early Years Care & Education, which would enable you to work without supervision as a nursery nurse or supervisor. With further experience, you could work as a nursery manager or become an advanced/senior practitioner.

**If you require any further information, please telephone
0800 731 1518 or visit www.childcarelink.gov.uk/oldham
or www.oldham.gov.uk/childcare**

