



Education and Early Years



Education and Early Years

Professionals working in the Early Years sector create bonds with children that can have huge positive impacts on their development.

What a child learns about the world in the first months and years of their life is crucial, and you can experience the reward of being an important part of that.

Studying a BTEC in Early Years will prepare you for a career in a sector that values trust, kindness, creativity – and fun. You'll experience an incredibly rewarding career, where you can go home at the end of the day knowing you have made a real difference to someone's life.

[Learn more about Education options](#)

Career options



Nursery Nurse
Nursery Supervisor
Early Years Educator
Pre-school Leader
Childminder
Nanny
Playgroup Assistant
Teaching Assistant (Reception)

Top 5 skills



1. Interpersonal skills and communication
2. Leadership
3. Responsibility
4. Time management
5. Trust and teamwork



CASE STUDY



Aliyah Black

Studied: BTEC National Diploma Level 3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development at Southwest College.

Course highlights: Being able to go on a work placement and gain first-hand experience in the industry, whilst being an advocate for National Deaf Children's Society.

Next steps: Continuing with her nursery placement and working towards becoming a SEND teacher.

Progression map: Education and Early Years

BTEC

TA

Tech Award

TOE

Technical
Occupational Entry

AAQ

Alternative Academic
Qualification

HNC

Higher National
Certificate

HND

Higher National
Diploma

Foundation
Certificate

Occupational
Certificate

V Level

Apprenticeship

T Level

Child Development

TA

LEVEL 1

Early Years Practitioner

Early Years Practitioner *

Education *

Child Development

TA

LEVEL 2

Early Years Educator

Education *

Early Years Educator

TOE

LEVEL 3

Early Years
Professional Leadership ²

HNC

LEVEL 4

Early Years
Lead Practitioner

Early Years
Professional Leadership ¹

HND

LEVEL 5

LEVEL 6

LEVEL 7

¹ Higher National approved as a Higher Technical Qualification (HTQ). Available in England only. | ² Higher National available in England only.

* In development for first teach September 2027



Example Progression Route

Job Role: Early Years Practitioner

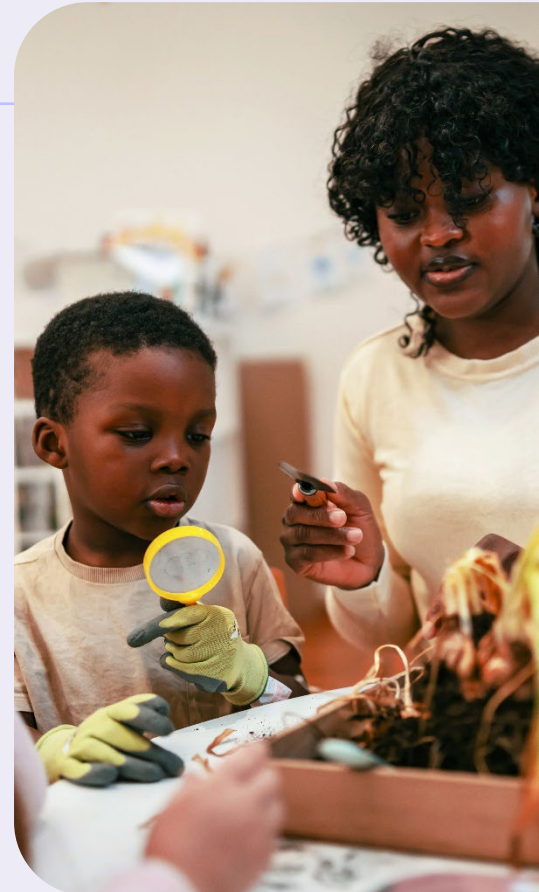


- ♦ Occupational Certificate for Early Years Practitioner*

OR

- ♦ Early Years Practitioner apprenticeship

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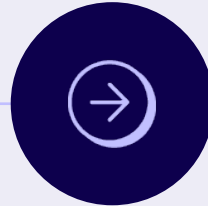


Example Progression Route

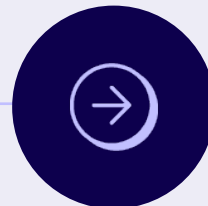
Job Role: Early Years Educator



- ♦ Foundation Certificate in Education*
- OR
- ♦ Early Years Practitioner apprenticeship



- ♦ BTEC Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry for Early Years Educator (Diploma) (*19+ year learners*)
- ♦ V Level in Education*
- OR
- ♦ Early Years Educator apprenticeship



- BTEC Higher National Certificate and Diploma in Early Years Professional Leadership (HTQ)



* In development for first teach for September 2027



Take your next step: Speak to your
local education provider.