

EARLY YEARS LEAD PRACTITIONER LEVEL 5



Blended learning



Course duration

18 months (21 months with Apprenticeship Assessment)



EPA Organisation

VTCT



Training time

Approx. 26 sessions



Funded learning

Funded via the Apprenticeship Levy



Apprenticeship level 5

OVERVIEW

Early Years Lead Practitioners are skilled professionals who work in settings such as nurseries, pre-schools, playgroups, primary schools, and wider community provision.

They lead day-to-day practice, acting as role models of play-based learning while supporting colleagues to develop their practice. Responsible for the care, learning, and development of children from birth to eight, they provide inclusive and holistic provision tailored to individual needs.

Lead Practitioners engage with sector developments, collaborate with families, colleagues, and external professionals, and continue to build their own expertise. Reporting to the head of the setting, they may lead specific areas such as Communication and Language, Planning and Assessment, Forest School, or Physical Activity and Nutrition.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Our educators have many years of experience in a childcare setting, giving them the knowledge to support you every step of the way.
- As an apprentice, you will have approximately 26 educator sessions throughout the duration of your apprenticeship.
- You will see your educator every 3 weeks for your online sessions. These appointments provide the opportunity to discuss progress, assign tasks and prepare you for your apprenticeship assessment. These appointments can be held face-to-face if you are located within the Midlands area.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Individual employers may set their own entry requirements. The candidate must already be employed for over 16 hours per week.

- If candidate is 16-18 they must have achieved maths and English at Level 2 prior to completion of the course. This is something that can be completed with us if needed.
- If a candidate is 19+ and hasn't achieved in Maths and English GCSE before enrolling, it is up to the employer to decide whether these qualifications should be attempted.
- The candidate must hold a maths Level 2 Functional Skill or Level 4 GCSE qualification to complete the course.
- The candidate must be employed in a suitable role.

TYPICAL JOB ROLES

- Room Leader
- Deputy Room Leader
- Nursery Team Leader
- Early Years Supervisor
- Deputy Nursery Manager

COURSE CONTENT

Child Development & Learning

Lead and plan inclusive, play-based, and enquiry-led learning for children up to eight, applying theories of attachment, self-regulation, resilience, and holistic development.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Promote children's health, safety, and wellbeing, including personal care, healthy choices, and risk-aware play, while ensuring compliance with safeguarding legislation and policies.

Curriculum & Assessment

Plan, implement, and evaluate learning programmes using formative and summative assessment, adapting provision to meet individual needs and track progress effectively.

Leadership & Collaboration

Lead, mentor, and guide colleagues, supporting professional development, while collaborating with parents, carers, and multi-agency professionals to enhance children's outcomes.

Professional Practice & Reflection

Demonstrate ethical, inclusive, and person-centred behaviours, reflect on practice, engage in continuous professional development, and use research and evidence to improve pedagogy.

EMPLOYER & LEARNER SATISFACTION

97%

of Apprentices would recommend us*

99%

of Employers would recommend us*

APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSMENT

The apprenticeship assessment includes:

- A 90 minute professional discussion supported by a portfolio of evidence.
- A 90 minutes observation of practice and questioning.

YOUR COMPLETE CAREER PATHWAY

Early Years
Practitioner
Level 2



Early Years
Educator
Level 3



Early Years
Lead
Practitioner
Level 5

“THROUGHOUT MY APPRENTICESHIP I HAVE HAD LOTS OF SUPPORT AND FREQUENT MEETINGS WITH MY EDUCATOR. I HAVE ALSO HAD 1 TO 1 SESSIONS TO ASSIST MY LEARNING AND AID ME IN REFLECTING ON MY PRACTISE. I FEEL LIKE I COULD HAVE APPROACHED ANYONE FOR SUPPORT AT ANY TIME WHICH WAS AMAZING.”

