

EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR LEVEL 3



Blended learning



Course duration

15 months (18 months with Apprenticeship Assessment)



EPA Organisation

VTCT



Training time

Approx. 25 sessions



Funded learning

Funded via the Apprenticeship Levy



Apprenticeship level 3

OVERVIEW

Early Years Educators are highly trained professionals who ensure young children learn and develop well. They work in a wide range of settings, including full day care, children's centres, and reception classes, and may also supervise others in delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements for children from birth to five.

Their responsibilities include planning and supervising both child-initiated and adult-led activities, supporting the development of language and numeracy through play, and ensuring each child feels safe and secure. Early Years Educators observe and shape children's learning experiences based on their individual needs while meeting their care requirements.

Working in partnership with colleagues, parents, carers, and other professionals, they play a vital role in creating nurturing environments that support children's holistic development and wellbeing.

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 25 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 a 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 be employed in a suitable role.
- The candidate must hold an English Level 2 Functional Skill or Level 4 GCSE qualification to complete the course.
- Candidates are required to hold a first aid qualification in line with the requirements of the EYFS framework.

TYPICAL JOB ROLES

- Early Years Educator
- Nursery Practitioner
- Preschool Practitioner
- Early Years Officer
- Reception Class Assistant
- Childcare Practitioner
- Playgroup Supervisor

COURSE CONTENT

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Follow safeguarding policies, manage risks, prevent infection, and support children's health, safety, and wellbeing.

Child Development & Learning

Understand attachment, holistic development, and expected progress from birth to age 5, with awareness up to age 7. Support transitions and use strategies to strengthen literacy, numeracy, and learning.

Curriculum & Planning

Plan, lead, and adapt EYFS activities, purposeful play, and educational programmes that meet individual needs and developmental stages.

Assessment & Progress

Use assessment to track progress, plan next steps, and shape learning opportunities to support achievement.

Collaboration & Professional Practice

Work with colleagues, parents, carers, and professionals to create enabling environments, communicate effectively, and demonstrate care, integrity, teamwork, and inclusive practice.

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 50 minute observation with 30 minute Q&A.

YOUR COMPLETE CAREER PATHWAY

Early Years
Practitioner
Level 2



Early Years
Educator
Level 3



Early Years
Lead
Practitioner
Level 5

ADDED VALUE - FREE ENDORSED COURSES - PURPOSEFUL PLAY & ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND BEHAVIOURS

Develop your workforce with endorsed qualifications unique to Heart of England Training. We look to offer your nursery more than just the basics when it comes to team development. Alongside the apprenticeship, learners will also gain one of the below endorsed Level 3 certificates designed to enhance practise and add immediate value to your Early Years setting:

- **Certificate in Purposeful Play Level 3** - Supporting staff to create exciting, play-based learning that inspires children's development
- **Certificate in Additional Needs and Behaviour Level 3** - Equipping practitioners to respond confidently to diverse needs and promote positive behaviour.

These extra qualifications provide your staff with specialist skills that directly benefit your children, families and nursery environment - delivered through interactive Microsoft Teams meetings. In order to complete these courses your role will need some exposure/experience within this setting.

