



# Choose a Childcare Career

## Become an early years practitioner

**Have you ever thought about working with young children?  
Now is a great time to try.**

There are many fantastic early years opportunities in Reading, so choose a career you can be proud of where you can gain qualifications, continue to train, learn and progress while helping children have the best start in life.

### *A few things to consider first:*

- ★ Do you enjoy helping babies and children play, learn and develop?
- ★ Can you communicate effectively?
- ★ Do you want a job that is rewarding and fun?
- ★ Do you have a positive and friendly approach?

If you answered yes, consider an early years position in a nursery setting and get your childcare career off to a great start.



## Nursery role

Nurseries provide care for babies and children up to the age of five, Monday to Friday with variable hours and weeks of work, depending on the setting type. There are a wide variety of roles held in early years provision depending on the skills and experience of the practitioner.

## Childcare volunteer

A voluntary role can be a great way to get a feel for childcare roles before making a commitment. It will also strengthen your CV and interview skills because you will be able to demonstrate the experience you have gained. Qualifications are not usually required but lots of enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. As a volunteer you will always be supported and supervised.

## Early years apprentice

An early years apprentice position does not usually require professional experience. You will be mentored by qualified staff members to understand child development, the importance of relationships and how to keep children safe whilst working towards a childcare qualification.

## Early years practitioner/teacher

It is best practice for all practitioners working with children to be working towards or to have gained a minimum of a level 3 childcare qualification to ensure high standards of care and education are maintained for children. As a qualified early years practitioner or teacher you will work with a team to value every child as a unique individual, nurture relationships, provide an enabling environment with a focus on play and to ensure that all children make good progress.

## Local training providers - links

**Chiltern Training**  
[Childcare courses| training courses](#)



**New Directions College**  
[Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#)



**Reading College**  
[Education and Childcare T Level](#)



## Elevate Careers service

If you are aged 16-18 years old (up to 25 years old for SEND and care experienced young people) [Elevate](#) can provide impartial advice to support you into employment, education or training.



## Further Education

[University of Reading](#)



[National Professional Qualifications](#)



## Early years career progression

A career in early education and childcare is rewarding, full of variety and offers progression as you grow in experience and confidence. The Department for Education (DfE) has developed [Pathway Guidance into Early Education](#).



### TOP TIPS

- ★ Speak to people who have chosen childcare as a career
- ★ Contact local childcare providers and ask if they have any vacancies
- ★ Offer to volunteer and learn more about your preferred role
- ★ If you are already working in childcare speak to your manager about opportunities to progress
- ★ Contact training providers to understand entry requirements and course structure



For further information,  
visit our 'Childcare careers' page.



[www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org](http://www.brighterfuturesforchildren.org)

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