

# Men In Childcare

Working in Early Years & Playwork, it's not just child's play



**Childcare is not just a job for women. Men have a valuable role to play in childcare. There are some children who do not have a central male figure in their day-to-day lives who could benefit from a positive role model.**

A growing number of men now work in Early Years and Playwork or as Childminders and many jobs have more status as people recognise what an important career it is and what a vital role it has in shaping future generations.

The work is also fun and active and there are plenty of opportunities to develop your career through training and progression.

## **Could it be for you?**

Turn this sheet over to see what men in Wiltshire say about their roles in Early Years and Playwork

## **Mark Cawley (age 41)**

Owner/Manager: New Road Nursery - Chippenham

Mark is the owner/manager of New Road Nursery in Chippenham in partnership with his Wife. Before opening the nursery he was an Engineer Officer in the Royal Air Force. Mark primarily looks after the finances and the bookings, health and safety and risk assessments. He also stands in for staff in all age ranges and helps out with the After school and Holiday Clubs and has recently completed an NVQ level 3 in childcare.

Mark really enjoys helping the children and being part of their development.

*"It is such a buzz when you see a child doing things that they couldn't do before. The smile on their face when they achieve something or the pride when they show their parent something that they have made. The older children also appear to enjoy having a male role model in the setting."*

For men considering childcare as a career mark suggests:

*"If you are considering it then give it a try. Children are fantastic to work with. They tell you exactly how it is and soon tell you if you are doing something wrong. Knowing that you are helping to prepare them for their future gives the job an enormous level of responsibility and sense of achievement."*

## **Craig Jeffery (aged 25)**

Playworker: Wylde Coyotes After School Club

As a playworker Craig supervises, monitors and interacts with the children attending. He also helps prepare food as well as organising events and activities. He has completed a Take 5 for Play course and is hoping to undertake a NVQ level 2 in the near future. Before this Craig did various jobs including factory work, retail, painting and decorating, safety steward and forklift truck driving.

Craig came into childcare after he became a single father:

*"I really enjoyed the bond my son and I established. I also had a connection with the children my son was interacting with... I was then fortunate enough to get a place at Wylde Coyotes after school club. The placement has opened my eyes to a whole new career I had not even considered."*

The thing Craig enjoys most about his job is seeing the children grow as individuals and knowing that his actions as a play worker has helped shape their lives. For men considering childcare as career Craig suggests:

*"Just go for it. You will be surprised how rewarding childcare can be."*