

# Working In Early Years Settings

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



**Day nurseries usually care for children from birth to 5 years of age and are mostly used by working parents. The nurseries are generally open from 8am to 6pm but this can vary slightly depending on demand for additional times.**

The majority of nurseries are open weekdays all year round (except for bank holidays) but with today's flexible approach to working it is likely you would be able to work either full or part-time to fit in with any other commitments you might have, for example your own family.

This type of provision will involve working with a wide age range of children from birth up to school age. You may therefore decide to specialise in a particular age group.

Pre-schools and playgroups provide sessional day care for children aged between 2 and 5 years. Most are organised by committees or voluntary groups, providing a number of morning and afternoon sessions each week, usually term-time only. Pre-schools and playgroups often offer staff the flexibility to fit their hours in around their other commitments.

## An early years worker in a nursery, pre-school or playgroup will:

- Plan and carry out daily programmes of activities following the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum
- Take care of children's personal needs such as feeding, changing and toileting
- Help to develop children's social, creative, physical and imaginative skills through games and activities
- Help prepare healthy drinks and snacks
- Encourage children to be confident, independent and develop a sense of self-worth
- Listen to children and encourage them to have high expectations about what they might achieve
- Be able to build good relationships with children, their parents and carers
- Be able to work as part of a team
- Be checked to ensure they are suitable to work with children

## Do I need any qualifications?

There are many qualifications available, although it is not necessary to enter this profession with qualifications already in place. You would be expected however, to undertake training while you work. Short courses would include Safeguarding Children, First Aid and Food Hygiene. While qualification courses could be:

- Certificate in Children's Care, Learning and Development (Level 2 or 3)
- NVQ 2, 3 and 4 in Children's Care, Learning and Development
- BTEC National Diploma in Early Years (Level 3)
- Early Years Foundation Degree (Level 5)
- The person in charge of a pre-school or playgroup must be qualified to Level 3 and have at least 2 years experience of working with children. Within a day nursery the person in charge will need to hold a degree along with Early Years Professional Status (EYPS).