



HOW TO BECOME AN EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER

WORKING AS AN EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER CAN BE AN ENGAGING AND FULFILLING CAREER

THIS LEAFLET CONTAINS USEFUL INFORMATION TO HELP GET YOU STARTED

USEFUL SKILLS

When working with young children you must be reliable, patient, observant, empathetic and creative. You should also be skilled at building relationships, have the ability to mediate and be an excellent communicator. A sense of fun and high energy will also come in handy!

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements for courses can change. Always contact the college, university, or training provider to check exactly what you'll need.

Foundation Apprenticeship.

Choosing a Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services - Children & Young People as one of your subjects in S5 and S6 can help you get a head start with this type of job.

You will get an SCQF level 6 qualification (the same level as a Higher) plus valuable work placement experience where you will have the chance to develop your skills and apply your knowledge.

There are also courses in the Senior Phase Programme such as:

- Skills for Work Early Learning & Childcare (SCQF levels 4 & 5)
 - Childcare & Development Higher
 - Care and Psychology - both available at SCQF level 5 and Higher
- All of these can help you progress a career in Early Years Education

USEFUL SUBJECTS

- English (required by most courses and employers)
- Maths
- Care
- Childcare & Development
- Health & Food Technologies



QUALIFICATIONS

You would need a qualification in Early Education and Childcare, such as an NQ Social Services: Children & Young People, NC Early Education and Childcare (both SCQF Level 6) or a HNC in Childhood Practice (SCQF Level 7), depending on your level of responsibility.

You can also gain your qualification through work-based learning such as an SVQ in Social Services (Children and Young People) (SCQF Level 6 or 7).

A Modern Apprenticeship is also available at SCQF level 7.

Once qualified you may wish to gain further Higher National Diploma (SCQF level 8) or Professional Development Awards (SCQF level 7/8/9) qualification in Childhood Practice or Child and Youth studies.

OTHER INFORMATION

You would be registered with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and be approved for membership of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme run by Disclosure Scotland.

HELPFUL TO HAVE

Qualifications and experience that show childcare abilities such as Skills for Work: Early Learning and Childcare (SCQF level 4/5).

Examples of Voluntary Experience in appropriate settings.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

You would mostly work inside a nursery setting, although you may sometimes supervise the children during outdoor activities or trips.



DAY-TO-DAY TASKS

You would work with babies and young children from birth until primary school age, helping them to learn in a safe, happy environment.

This could include:

- Creating, planning and running activities like arts, crafts, music and cooking
- Promoting play using activities and games
- Reading stories and carrying out activities to develop the children's language skills
- Feeding and changing babies and taking children on outings
- Making sure that the national guidance on early years education is reflected in the children's learning
- Keeping the children safe and well at all times
- Reporting any worries, such as signs of abuse, to your manager
- Carrying out observations to contribute to children's reports
- Working as a team to provide a positive environment for children

You may have to act as a key worker for one or more children. This means checking on their progress and keeping their parents and/or carers updated. Or you might like to specialise in working with children with physical disabilities, learning difficulties or mental health issues.

HOW MUCH CAN I EARN?

£18,000 - £30,000

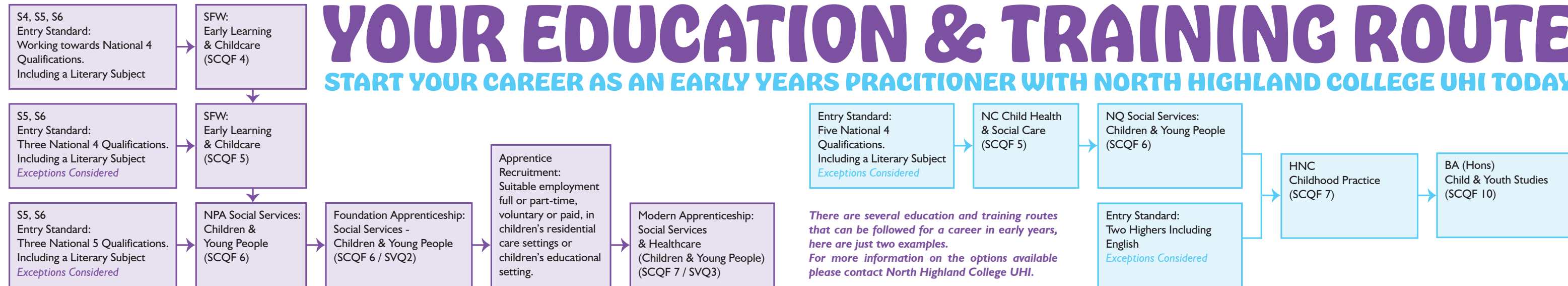
LOCAL AREA EMPLOYERS

Opportunities in Caithness include working for The Highland Council, Care and Learning Alliance or privately run nurseries.



YOUR EDUCATION & TRAINING ROUTE

START YOUR CAREER AS AN EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER WITH NORTH HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI TODAY



HOW TO BECOME AN EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER

WORKING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN IS A FUN-FILLED AND REWARDING CAREER

NOW TRAINING TO BECOME A TEACHER, KAREN GUNN SHARES HER LEARNING JOURNEY AND EXPERIENCES WORKING IN EARLY YEARS EDUCATION

I am currently employed by the Highland Council as a Pupil Support Assistant (PSA) working with young children whilst also studying for a PDGE to become a primary school teacher.

Through my work as a PSA I support children's learning throughout the curriculum. No two days are the same and I could be doing anything from assisting with reading, constructing a float from balloons and tin foil or painting a map of the world. Working as a PSA, gives me the chance to see first-hand how my studies transfer into the classroom.

After many years of being a Mum and working in jobs that fitted around my family's life and my children becoming more independent, I felt the time was right for me to follow my aspirations of becoming a teacher.

I started my journey by completing an HNC in Childhood Practice through North Highland College UHI. Studying after having such a long break took a bit of getting used to, but my tutors were all so supportive.

Having the opportunity to help a child grow, learn and develop their skills is an incredibly special role to play.

I completed an extra module during this time so that I would be able to progress onto the second year of the BA Child and Youth Studies degree.

Being able to complete the degree at home around family life, with the support of all my tutors was fantastic.

In my final year, I also completed an evening class at North Highland College UHI to get the grade in Higher English that I required to further my studies.

I am currently in my second term of studying the PGDE, which I am studying part time so that I can continue to work.

During my time studying I developed an interest in additional support needs and I hope to be able to complete a Master's degree in Additional Support Needs in the future.

My experience has shown me that a career in early years education is extremely rewarding. Having the opportunity to help a child grow, learn, develop their skills, and ultimately shape

The opportunities to study that are available to us all in the highlands are fantastic.

their future as effective and engaged learners throughout school and beyond is an incredibly special role to play.

Being able to work towards a career in early education with North Highland College UHI has allowed me to follow my dreams. When I was at school, this would have meant leaving home and moving over 200 miles away to attend university. There was no way I would have felt confident enough to do that! The opportunities to study that are available to us all in the highlands are fantastic.

Karen Gunn

**Pupil Support Assistant
The Highland Council**

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

More information can be found by visiting the following websites:

**DYW North Highlands
dywnh.info**

**My World of Work
myworldofwork.co.uk**

**North Highland College
northhighland.uhi.ac.uk**

**Apprenticeships.Scot
apprenticeships.scot**

All details correct at time of printing.
For updated course information visit:
northhighland.uhi.ac.uk

