

A child's hand is shown reaching towards several colorful wooden letters scattered on a white surface. The letters are decorated with various patterns like polka dots, stripes, and swirls. A large, multi-colored brushstroke graphic is positioned behind the main title text.

Working in childcare

Guide to getting started in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

Welcome

Welcome to the Childcare Workforce Development Service, this guide will give you an idea of what it is like to work in early years, what some of the roles are and share experiences of people currently working in the sector.

There has never been a better time to work in early years and childcare and playwork, it's a growing sector and there is an increasing demand for staff at all levels.

There are opportunities for everyone, whether you want to work full-time or part-time, as an assistant or in a more managerial position. It is impossible to define all the roles available as there is so much variety in the sector.

The Workforce Development Team support the existing childcare workforce and help people find a career in childcare.

- Organise a taster session
- Details of jobs in local area
- Details of local training providers

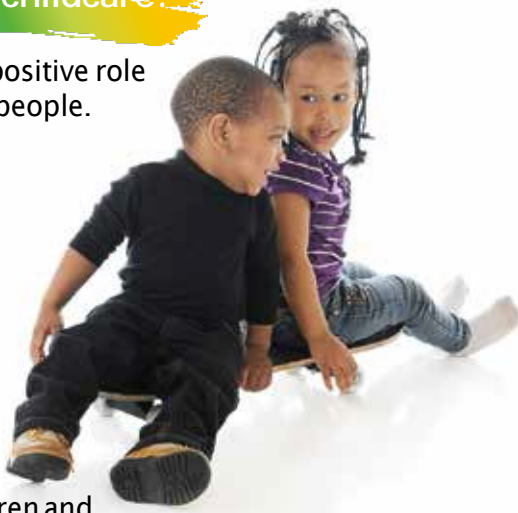
Could it be for you?



What type of person works in childcare?

We need people like you to become a positive role model and inspire children and young people. Some of the qualities you should have are:

- Patience
- Enthusiasm
- Commitment to child development
- A sense of fun
- Good communication skills
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Commitment to safeguarding children and undertake training



Will I need any qualifications?

You don't necessarily need to hold a childcare qualification in order to enter the profession however everyone who works in childcare will be expected to undertake training, including GCSE Maths and English or Functional Skills.

There are different levels of qualifications suitable for every stage of your career, from leaving school to higher education and there are a number of ways that you can go about training.

There are a range of accredited courses available, from apprenticeships to degrees, including full-time, part-time, evenings or work based training that fits in with your life.



Types of childcare settings

Day nurseries usually care for children from birth to five years of age. This type of provision will involve working with a wide age range of children from birth up to school age. The majority are open weekdays all year round.

Pre-schools provide sessional day care for children aged between two and five years. Most are organised by committees or voluntary groups, providing a number of morning and afternoon sessions each week, usually term-time only.

Playwork settings usually care for children aged between four and 16 years and offer safe places for children to meet their friends, socialise and learn through play. They can be located in various places for example schools, nurseries, community centres, village halls, hospitals, leisure centres or even playbuses.

With today's flexible approach it is likely you would be able to work either full or part-time.



What would my job involve - early years settings

- Planning and carrying out daily programmes of activities following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum
- Taking care of children's personal needs such as feeding, changing and toileting
- Helping to develop children's social, creative, physical and imaginative skills through games and activities
- Listening to children and encouraging them to have high expectations about what they might achieve
- Encouraging children to be confident, resilient and develop a sense of self-worth
- Being aware of health and safety and making sure children are safe
- Building good relations with children, their parents and carers
- Being able to work as part of a team



What would my job involve - playwork settings

- Helping children develop their confidence and independence by providing a safe and stimulating environment where they can have fun
- Providing children with play and learning opportunities through a wide range of planned and free play activities both inside and outside, including arranging visits and outings
- Talking to children about their concerns or worries
- Building good relations with children, their parents and carers
- Being able to work as part of a team





Think working in childcare is
just for girls?

Think Again!

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. Many parents comment on how great it is to see men in settings who bring different skills to the same roles.

A growing number of men now work in early years and playwork or as a Childminder and many jobs have more status as people recognise the 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 to degree level.

You can contact Childcare Workforce Development Team on:

Helpline: 01225 712966

Email: childcareworkforce@wiltshire.gov.uk

Web: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-vacancies

Facebook: @wiltsearlyyears

Twitter: @childcarewilts



Information about Wiltshire Council services can be made available on request in other languages and formats such as large print and audio. Please contact the council by telephone 0300 456 0100 or email customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk