

Vocational qualifications

Level 2 or 3 qualifications in childcare

You can complete through your local college, training provider or through employment.

Higher education: If you've already gained a level 3 qualification, you might want to consider going onto complete a degree in childcare and early years.

Please check that the training and qualifications you intend to undertake are recognised within the childcare sector and will allow you to be counted in adult:child ratios once you are employed in a childcare setting. Please be aware health and social care is not a recognised as an equivalent childcare qualification.

- **Early Years qualifications finder:** www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder

Early Years Lead Practitioner (EYLP) Level 5

Requirements: GCSE English and Maths – Grade C (4) or above, Level 3 Early Years, support from employer.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pathway-into-early-years-education/pathway-into-early-years-education>

The National Professional Qualification in Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)

Requirements: The NPQEYL is aimed at leaders qualified to (at least level 3) with full and relevant qualifications.

On average participants will need to spend between 1 and 2 hours per week working towards the NPQ, over 18months.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-education-recovery-programme/early-years-education-recovery-programme-supporting-the-sector>

Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT)

Is an undergraduate route to Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) which allows you to specialise in working with children up to 5 years old only. Suitable for Graduates.

Requirements: GCSE Grade C/4 or above (or recognised equivalent) in English Language, Math's and Science, Undergraduate degree.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-initial-teacher-training-2022-to-2023-funding-guidance>

Funding your Training

Apprenticeships

You could be an apprentice teacher, teaching assistant, childminding assistant or early years educator. Playing a vital role in enabling children to get the most out of education in a school or early years setting. Earning money while you study for an early year's qualification is a great option.

Government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee

From 1st April 2021, eligible adults are able to take courses and qualifications free of charge as part of the government's lifetime skills guarantee offer in England.

There are around 400 qualifications available in a range of sectors including level 3 courses in early education and childcare.

For more information please visit:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/606c74a7e90e074e51d93f1e/DfE_Lifetime_Skills_Guarantee_Announcement_-_Provider_Communications_Toolkit_April_21.pdf

Ask your Job Centre work coach

Talking to your work coach about any opportunities for funded training work schemes or apprenticeships is a great place to start.

Ask your local college

Many colleges and adult further education institutes offer concessions or payment plans for certain courses. Many are also taking part in the Lifetime Skills Guarantee scheme. It is worth having a conversation to find out if you could get access to courses at a reduced rate or even free.

Useful Links

- Early Educator Apprenticeship - <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/early-years-educator>
- Men in childcare and early years - <https://mityuk.org/>
- Our Town Directory - Directory.wigan.gov.uk
- List of free Level 3 qualifications available - www.gov.uk/government/publications/find-a-free-level-3-qualifications/list-of-free-level-3-qualifications-available-to-eligible-adults
- National Careers service - www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/teaching-assistant
- Apprenticeship information - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- Greater Manchester Apprenticeship & Careers - <https://gmacs.co.uk/>
- Career advice and Guidance - <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Learning-careers-skills-for-young-people.aspx>