**Qualified Early Years Practitioner (Level 3 - Early Years Educator)**

You will have a level 3 early years qualification (approved by the DfE – see [Early Years Qualification List](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder#overview) ) or a level 3 apprenticeship and level 2 English and maths qualifications (for example, Functional Skills or GCSEs). A full current paediatric first aid certificate (PFA).

As a qualified practitioner at level 3, in this job you are likely to:

* Lead on children’s development as you will have more detailed knowledge and experience of children’s developmental stages.
* Lead a room or become a manager across the whole setting should you successfully secure a position.
* Have key responsibilities in addition to the level 2 role e.g. liaising with external professionals and parents/carers in the best interests of the child.
* Undertake observation and assessment of children and track their progress, and ensure that play opportunities provided are structured to support each individual child’s needs to enable children to explore and develop.
* For those working with children aged 3 to 4, the role might also include preparing children for transition to school.
* Work with others, often as a supervisor, or even mentor new starters that join early years as a career such as apprentices.



**Opportunities for Progression:**

When you have at least two years’ experience of working in an early years setting, or other suitable early years experience, you can become an early years setting manager.

You could take a level 4 early years qualification or Foundation Degree by doing a college based course with a work placement or a work based course with on the job training and assessment. Your local college or training provider will be able to provide more information about training, qualifications and funding. You should check that the qualification you are intending to do is approved by the Department for Education please visit: [Early Years Qualifications List](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder#content)

For careers information, visit [nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/) or call 0800 100 900

For other training and development courses please visit: <http://eyupskill.org.uk/>

**Case Study**

**Level 3 Practitioner**

I’m Jamel and I work as a level 3 practitioner in a nursery. I’ve been involved in childcare and working with young children since I was 16.  I started off volunteering at a local youth club, and then studied health and social care level 2 in my first year of sixth form, which required me to attend work placements in four care settings. A nursery was one of them, and that’s when my passion for childcare arose. It’s important to get a balance so the children get male and female role models.

We focus on learning and development just like a school. We have a curriculum and parents’ evenings, and write reports. The children are taught reading, writing and maths from the age of two, alongside art and physical activities. A growing body of research has suggested that nursery education can have effects far beyond early years. It’s proven that children who start their education in nursery do better at primary school right up to A levels and beyond.

In a nursery we apply theory to the activities children do, there’s still a lot of play, but with reasoning behind it. We think about how the games will help their co-ordination, their literacy, their communication.

Attitudes towards male nursery teachers have also changed. When I started working, people might ask who I was. Now I tend to hear parents saying, great, you have a man working here. There’s always an air of uncertainty handing your child over to a stranger for the first time but the fact that I’m a man doesn’t make any difference.
This is an opportunity to do something really important. If you’re a person who is nurturing, brave, creative, inspiring, fun, this is the job for you, regardless of whether you’re male or female.
I love being able to meet the needs of the children I teach, while having fun. Seeing children progress and helping to lay the foundations they will need later in life are what I enjoy as a nursery teacher.