Your Guide to Starting a Childcare Apprenticeship
Starting a childcare apprenticeship will help you take your first steps into an exciting and rewarding career working with children. However, you may feel nervous or worried about entering the world of work, especially if this is your first job after school. Even if this isn’t the first time you’ve worked, you may not know what a childcare apprenticeship will involve or how the journey starts.

We’re here to put your mind at rest! This short guide will help you understand the path we’ll take together to help you find your ideal apprenticeship, and we’ll also answer some questions you might have about what comes next.

What is an apprenticeship?
An apprenticeship is “hands-on” learning - this means that you’ll work in a childcare setting like a nursery, pre-school or childminder’s and get paid a wage. Whilst you’re working, you’ll also gain a nationally recognised qualification which will help you to progress your career in the future.

When can I start an apprenticeship?
If you’re aged 16-18, you may not know that you can leave school after your 16th birthday to start an apprenticeship. So, rather than earning nothing for staying in school and being bored in the classroom - you’ll be paid a wage to learn practical new skills you can use straight away!

So, how does it work?
1. You send us your CV, and we find you an apprentice role that we think you’d suit
2. We contact the employer, send them your CV and arrange an interview date for you
3. Beforehand, we’ll ask you to attend a ‘mock’ interview over the phone with Parenta. We’ll give you top tips to help you impress an employer
4. If your interview with the employer went well, we’ll organise a 2nd interview/trial date. If you don’t get on well in the interview, we start again at step 2
5. If they offer you the job and you accept, we’ll organise your start date
6. Within 7 days of starting work, we’ll send out a training adviser to enrol you on an apprenticeship course
7. We’ll assign you a personal tutor who visits you every 6-8 weeks whilst at work to see how you’re getting on.
8. We’ll stay in touch and provide ongoing help to you as needed during your first month of your new job.
FAQs

Will I need to pay for training?

If you’re 16-18, living in England and not in full time education at the time of starting your apprenticeship course, you won’t have to pay a penny! The cost of your training will be paid for by the government.

Do I need to work full time?

Not necessarily. However, to gain your apprenticeship and be fully funded for the course you’ll need to work for between 16-30+ hours per week in a childcare setting.

Will I need to leave work 1 day a week to go to college?

You don’t need to attend classes or go to college, as all the learning for your course will be undertaken online and in your own time.

What help will I get?

You’ll have a personal tutor / assessor who will come and visit you in your place of work every 6-8 weeks to see how you’re getting on. Your tutor will be able to help you by telephone and email too, if there’s any aspect of the course you don’t understand or need help with.

What course can I be enrolled on?

Courses which can be undertaken as a modern apprenticeship through Parenta are:

1. Level 2 Diploma Business Administration
2. Level 2 Team Leading Diploma
3. Level 2 Childcare Children and Young People’s Workforce Certificate
4. Level 3 Childcare Early Years Educator Diploma
5. Level 3 Diploma Business Administration

You can chat to our team to find out which courses would suit you on 0800 002 9242.

What if I’m worried about starting work?

This is totally understandable - everyone who leaves school is nervous about going into their first job. We’ll work closely with you and give you practical advice about entering the world of work, including how to succeed at interview stage and how to pass your trial period! We’ll also be in touch regularly to check that you’re settling into your new role, so there’s nothing to worry about.

If there’s anything we haven’t covered here that you’d like to know, you can of course also contact our team on 0800 002 9242 or email contact@parenta.com and we’ll be happy to assist you.
Other Parenta Products

Software:

NURSERY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE
- Save hours by reducing your planning time by 50%
- Speedy invoicing to all your parents in minutes
- Instant view of all your financial reports
- Manage payments and track debt

FOOTSTEPS
- Our online EYFS curriculum enabling you to easily identify each child’s development pathway.

DAYSHARE
- Online diary software helping you share all activities with parents.

PARENT PORTAL APP
- Bringing parents closer to their child’s day at your nursery by providing a timeline of their progress.
- Download our Parent Portal App on Android or IOS.

Recruitment:
We can help with recruitment of 16-18 year-old apprentices at your setting
- We’ll advertise the role for you for free
- Sort out and short-list CVs
- Help you find a candidate that matches your requirements

Websites:
- We create SEO optimised websites that generate interest from parents.
- We set up social media accounts - including Facebook and Twitter.
- We offer a full website support service so you can focus on what matters.

Working together for our children

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