

Student Profile - Hannah Kidd



Hannah Kidd studied for the Early Years Professional Status (EYPS), with National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) and the Open University, who are the national training providers for the course.

Hannah undertook the 12 month full-time training pathway, which is paid for by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) and also received the £5,000 bursary to support her studying. Hannah achieved the Early Years Professional Status in 2008 and now works as a Lead Early Years Educator in a large nursery.

What attracted you to the EYPS course?

After graduating from the University of Sheffield, I found a temporary job in a nursery school as a supply member of staff to tie me over while looking for a more permanent job. I discovered there that I enjoyed working with children; it was

fun, creative and demanding and I loved it!

I decided to apply to the EYPS course to further my career in Early Years, to broaden my knowledge and develop my leadership skills.

How did you find out about EYPS?

I found out about EYPS from the nursery school I was working at; the deputy head was going through the course and recommended it.

Why did you choose to study with NDNA and the Open University?

I chose to study with NDNA and the Open University because it was mainly placement based and home studying. The Open University sent all the reading and study material so it meant that I could work at my placement then come home and study for the rest of the week without having to spend time going to the library and looking for the course materials myself. It meant I was able to fit studying around my home life.

Please tell us a bit about the course and what it involves?

The course involved studying two main modules from the Open University which led to achieving The Open University Certificate in Early Years Practice, a course which gave me an underpinning knowledge of working and supporting children in the early years and a full Level 4 qualification in addition to EYPS. For the Open University courses there was a curriculum day held approximately once a month, this was a chance to catch up with friends and the course tutors to discuss the course material and any problems.

The course also involved two placements in two different settings across the three different age ranges; babies, toddlers and young children. Since I had no experience of leadership in any employment, I was advised to undertake the Leadership and Management Level 5 course run by the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM), which was funded by NDNA and the Open University and gave me another qualification at Level 5.

What did you enjoy about the course?

Overall the placements were the most enjoyable part of the course. I was in my last placement for six months so really became part of the team, building good relationships with the children, parents and staff. I enjoyed the ILM course much more than I anticipated and it gave me huge confidence in leading and managing people. I also enjoyed the curriculum days; it was a great chance to meet up with people and share experiences and concerns with lots of coffee and cake!

How did you find distance learning?

Distance learning was brilliant. Since the entire course materials were sent directly to my door, it meant no trips to the library, or midday, or evening lectures and I could fit my studying around my home life, when it suited me. The course provider broke down the studying into manageable chunks, for example, reading a chapter a week. Initially I was concerned about submitting assignments on time through the post, but this proved to be no hassle at all.

How were your work placements in the nursery? How did these help you with the course?

The placements were brilliant; since I was there every day it was like being a member of staff. The placements gave me practical experience that supported the reading and studying of both the Open University courses and the ILM course.

How would you describe the role and duties of an EYP in your experience?

In my experience the role and duty of an EYP is to have a secure, up-to-date knowledge and understanding of early years practice, to be able to reflect on current practice and make improvements, and to lead and support other staff to develop and improve their practice.

Since you achieved EYPS, how has your career developed?

Since I have achieved EYPS, I have got a job as a Lead Early Years Educator, leading the under three's unit in a large nursery school.

**Next steps...**

As an Early Years Professional you will lead the childcare profession and can really make a difference to a child's life by providing high quality early years care. The Government is aiming to have an Early Years Professional in every nursery in England by 2015, so this course can lead to a long and rewarding career.

The next full time training pathway for EYPS starts in September 2010; NDNA is now taking applications from graduates. To find out more visit www.ndna.org.uk and click on the 'quality, training & business support' tab and then the 'EYPS' link or call 01484 70 78.