

# Case study: Childcare Works Project - Trainee Nursery Assistant Experience

Kate Jeremiah participated in NDNA Cymru's 16-week Childcare Works programme that was delivered in RCT from October to February 2024.

The programme was funded by The Moondance Foundation and supported 5 Trainee Nursery Assistants.

The trainees completed 4 weeks of training, followed by 12 weeks on placement in a childcare setting.

Kate completed her placement at Nightingales Nursery, Ynyscynon in Rhondda Cynon Taf and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



After being out of work for several years due to taking time off for maternity and childcare, I was lacking in confidence about returning to the workplace, or even finding a job. After attending a local playgroup with my youngest child, I was invited to join as a volunteer in a local parenting group. I was apprehensive as the role was completely different to anything I had ever done, but I really enjoyed supporting families and children, and my role there naturally shifted to looking after the children whilst their parents focused on completing the parenting courses. After a while I was also invited to join as a volunteer in their mother and toddler/baby group.

I thoroughly enjoyed volunteering and started to consider ways into paid employment in the childcare sector but felt completely out of my depth about how to get started. I saw a post shared on social media about a Trainee Nursery Assistant Programme offering a 16-week paid training and employment opportunity. The post included a list of qualifications that could be obtained during the programme. I applied and after my interview was fortunate enough to be offered a place.

The first 4 weeks of training online were invaluable, covering areas such as safeguarding, allergy awareness, speech and language and also theories of play and child development. The other members on the course were supportive and it has been lovely going on this journey alongside them. Claudia was also very supportive,

always available if I needed any support or had any questions. As the training was coming to an end, I was starting to get apprehensive about starting my placement, however I had the opportunity to visit the nursery to meet with Mel the nursery manager who went through everything I needed to know before starting, and was so welcoming.

My time on placement went quicker than I was expecting, the 12 weeks absolutely flew by. The staff and children in the setting were all so welcoming and I genuinely enjoyed going into work every day and getting to know all the children. It was so rewarding being able to experience how varied and rewarding it is working in a nursery, and also to see things learnt during the online training being applied in practice.

Completing the course has made me more confident in my ability and confidence with working in the Early Years sector. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to take part, and even though I am sad at the thought of it ending, I am also excited for the prospects for the future in obtaining a Childcare qualification and continuing in a career in Childcare.

*Kate Jeremiah*

### Comment from Nightingales Nursery, Ynyscynon, Rhondda Cynon Taf

“I have had three students placed within my Nurseries and they have all been very enthusiastic, reliable and have worked well within their teams, contributing ideas, and effectively working with the children. The project has contributed to their overall knowledge and performance, they are very well supported and managed.”

### For further information contact

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