

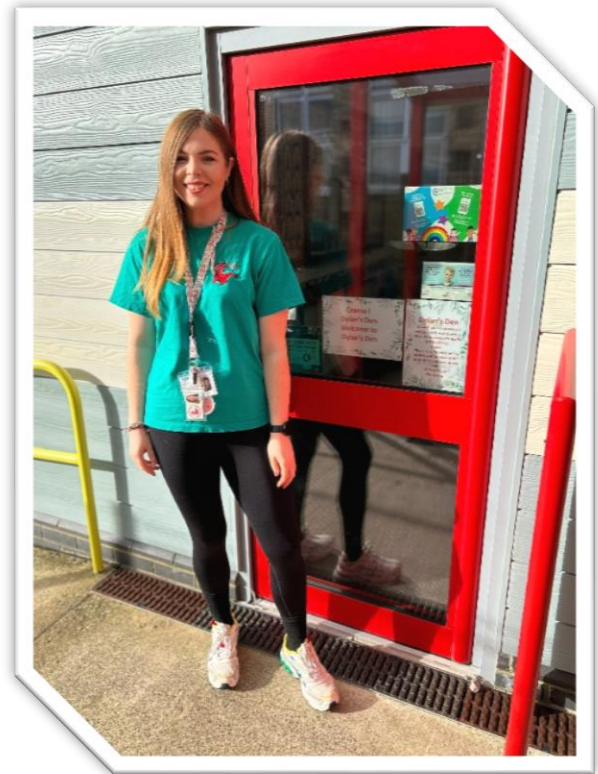
Case study: Childcare Works Project - Trainee Nursery Assistant Experience

Sarah Howard 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.

Sarah completed her placement at a childcare setting in Rhondda Cynon Taf and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



Joining the National Day Nurseries Association as a Trainee Nursery Assistant has been such a positive experience, both personally and professionally. Throughout my time on placement, I've not only contributed to creating enriching environments for children but also gained valuable skills that have helped shape my career path.

As a Nursery Assistant, my responsibilities consisted of facilitating engaging play activities, ensuring the safety and well-being of children, and helping to provide a supportive and inclusive atmosphere. Working alongside other team members and engaging with parents further enriched my role, providing a holistic understanding of childcare practices.

Through this programme I have gained many skills and training opportunities, including Safeguarding, Paediatric First Aid and Food Hygiene, to name a few.

My communication and interpersonal skills have broadened as I've learned to adapt my communication style to include communicating with children of various ages and backgrounds, as well as colleagues and parents/guardians, which has been an essential skill in my role.

The Childcare Works programme has been such a positive experience as I have been involved in developing and creating innovative play activities that cater to children's interests, schemas and promoting their

development, which has been a significant aspect of my role. During this, I've explored my creativity further and resourcefulness in providing stimulating environments with natural resources and real life items.

Each day in the setting presented unique challenges, requiring quick thinking and adaptability. From resolving conflicts between children to addressing unforeseen logistical issues, which has helped me to develop strong problem-solving skills and the ability to stay focused under pressure.

My experience working as a Nursery Assistant with NDNA has not only cemented my passion for working with children but it has also sparked an interest in pursuing a career in early childhood education and child development. The opportunity to have a positive impact to young lives and contribute to their holistic development aligns perfectly with my professional aspirations.

During my time on placement, I decided to enrol on my Level 2 CCPLD which I am currently working towards. Following completion of the programme, I was offered employment by my placement setting. I am grateful for the opportunities given in working on the NDNA project as it has given me confidence within myself and I am excited to continue onto the next chapter of my professional journey.

Thank you Claudia, you have been a great support throughout this journey.

Sarah Howard

Comment from Sarah's placement setting

"This project has been managed well between yourselves and the participant. In many cases such a project puts too much pressure on the setting and overloads an already busy setting leader. I feel that this project has worked well and has certainly been worthwhile for both the participant and ourselves."

When asked, 'do you feel the programme has inspired the participant placed within your setting to pursue a career in an early years setting?'

"Definitely as we have employed her. She would be an asset to any setting."

For further information contact

Claudia Wood – Project Manager

Claudia.wood@ndna.org.uk

01824 707823 Ext 290

07551 441637

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