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Case study: Childcare Works Project - Trainee Nursery Assistant Experience

Charmaine Brighton participated in NDNA Cymru's 16-week Childcare Works programme that was delivered in Conwy from January to May 2024.

The programme was funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and supported 7 Trainee Nursery Assistants.

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

Charmaine completed her placement at Springfields Day Nursery, Ashbourne in Conwy and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the



I started the Childcare Works Project in January 2024, I have always loved looking after children and as a young Mum myself I really enjoyed bringing up my daughter. I heard about the project through my DWP work coach.

The application and interview process was seamless and I was offered a place on the project!

I did 4 weeks training online with the project coordinator- Lesley and this I found interesting and I learnt a lot.

Once I started in placement I felt everything came together and I couldn't wait to get in there and interact with the children. My weekly feedback from the nursery was really good and that's when I thought this is where I am meant to be. My confidence in what I had to offer the childcare sector just grew.

My previous jobs are a million miles away from a career in childcare, I have been a car welder and a security officer to name just two.

I have now been offered, and accepted, a permanent 40 hour contract in the nursery I completed my placement in. I couldn't be happier...I am where I'm meant to be! I would recommend this project!!

Comment from Springfields Day Nursery, Ashbourne

“This NDNA project has been an absolutely fantastic project that we are so glad we were a part of. We have gained two staff members that we took on at the end of the project. Both staff members came with most of the training that we ask for which made the process of joining our team much easier. Both women did a fabulous job engaging with the children from the get go, along with great knowledge. No job was ever too much for them and they were always happy to accommodate with the days/times, uniform required to follow our policy and would be happy work in any room.

As the women came to have a look around the building prior to their start date again this made the process of starting much easier and smoother. Here at the nursery we are looking forward to seeing the next line up that we welcome into the nursery, hoping that they will be as successful as the previous women we have had recently.”

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