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Case study: Childcare Works Project - Trainee Nursery Assistant Experience

Siobhan 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.

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



My name is Siobhan and I am 20 years old. When I heard about the Childcare Works project through my DWP work coach I knew I had to apply. I have nieces and nephews I look after and I realized I really like doing that.

I applied and spoke to the project coordinator and she briefly gave me the information regarding the project.

I was nervous before I commenced my 4 weeks training but I needn't have been, I enjoyed the content and learnt so much. Once the project started I met the other trainees both online and then I met them in person when we did our 1st aid training.

When my placement started I was excited to start, the nursery staff at the setting were so welcoming and I didn't feel like the new girl for long. I worked 16 hours a week and was paid by the project for those hours.

Part of being on the project is getting feedback from the nursery on how my week has gone, via the project coordinator, Lesley. This was so reassuring to hear as I really didn't know if I was doing well or not. My feedback was so encouraging and that gave me confidence in myself.

The placement taught me so much and showed me what a day in a typical nursery looks like. It didn't take long before I knew the nurseries routines and watching the children coming to me for help or for a chat was really lovely.

Then I got called into the office to say they wanted to offer me a fulltime permanent position in the nursery. I was beaming from ear to ear and accepted.

I am now employed by the nursery and I would recommend this project to everyone, it is a very supportive project and it is my stepping stone into a career in childcare, one I wouldn't have been able to secure myself.

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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