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

Kate Wilkinson participated in NDNA Cymru's Childcare Works programme that was delivered in Conwy from January to November 2024.

The programme was funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and supported 14 Trainee Nursery Assistants, across two cohorts.

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

Kate completed her placement across two different childcare settings and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



I am a mother to two children and have been “economically inactive” for several years. When I saw the advert for the Childcare Works on Indeed it immediately grabbed my attention.

I decided to apply but wanted a little background on the project first, the project coordinator, Lesley Williams, rang me and gave me all the information I needed. So I was then interviewed and given a place on the project! Amazing.

I have enjoyed my time on the project and have found the whole experience extremely rewarding. The initial four week training gave me a thorough understanding of the role of Early Years Practitioner and delivered a very comprehensive grounding, prior to the twelve week nursery placement.

The placement itself was enjoyable and I really loved developing relationships with the children. I spent four weeks at one nursery and the remaining eight weeks at another. After having been 'economically inactive' for three years and in my fifties, this project has restored my confidence and I would certainly recommend it.

Once I had completed my 8 weeks at the second nursery, I then decided to sign up to New Directions in Wrexham as I wanted a flexible working pattern to fit in around my family and my life. I have

already completed a couple of shifts in schools supporting children with ALN. I would never have signed up to this educational agency prior to the project!

Throughout the whole project, I have found Lesley to be extremely helpful, kind and encouraging. She has always made herself available to us, either by email or message, and has always been supportive and encouraging. Lesley delivered most of the initial four-week training, which was engaging and interesting. From my initial interview, I have always felt that Lesley really wanted me to do well and her confidence in me, has really given me confidence, for which I will always be grateful.

I thank the Childcare Works project for giving me this opportunity.

### Comment from Meithrinfa Chwarae Teg Nursery;

When approached by the NDNA to take part in the Childcare Works Project, we were more than happy to oblige. Everyone has to start somewhere and this programme gives people a great insight into working within the Childcare Sector and allows them to gain valuable experience and knowledge. The communication we received was always of a high standard so nothing was ever confused and everyone knew what was expected of them and both students we had at our Nursery were a pleasure to have. To summarise, the Childcare Works Project is a worthwhile experience for everyone and we would definitely recommend it. We would not hesitate to agree to being involved with the project again in the future.

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**For further information contact**

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