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

Lowri Lewis participated in NDNA Cymru's 16-week Childcare Works programme that was delivered in Pembrokeshire from April to August 2024.

The programme was funded the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, supporting 6 Trainee Nursery Assistants in Pembrokeshire.

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

Lowri completed her placement at Jolly Jumpers Nursery in Haverfordwest and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



Before taking part in the NDNA Childcare Works programme I was a stay-at-home single mum, my previous employment was no longer available to me and I was having difficulty getting back into work both financially and emotionally, with little experience in anything other than catering and I had absolutely no desire to go back to that line of work. I joined the programme as it looked like a promising opportunity for me to get experience and training in a new role. With it being a paid employment programme, it made it financially viable for me to gain the experience I needed and confidence in a new workplace and so making it possible for me to get back into work.

Throughout the programme I have enjoyed learning new skills and knowledge in childcare, I previously had some experience but not much. I found the remote training enjoyable as I could work with others in a similar situation to me and we could discuss the work and learn from each other too. I have loved being on placement, watching some of the babies grow and develop new skills such as walking and crawling. The skills I have learned have been applicable not only in my placement but at home with my child too. I have learnt about various aspects of childcare such as health and safety, Paediatric First Aid and how to incorporate teaching basic skills into play such as letters, numbers, colours and shapes.

On my placement I worked in a busy nursery with the babies aged up to two years, with the older children aged two to three years and aged three years plus. I have helped out in all aspects of the childcare from assisting children and babies at meal times, changing nappies, free play and arts and crafts. It has been a really enjoyable experience and I have successfully achieved employment with my placement nursery which will also enable me to further my training and hopefully gain appropriate qualifications. Without the support of the programme, I don't think I would have been confident enough or financially stable enough to achieve not only the experience, but also the employment.

### Comment from Jolly Jumpers Nursery

*'NDNA have been supportive of both the nursery and the students. They have taken time to educate the students prior to starting their 12-week placement. All students are DBS checked before starting with also having extensive training in areas such as food and hygiene, first aid, health and safety and manual handling.'*

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### For further information contact

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