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Case study: Childcare Works Project - Trainee Nursery Assistant Experience

Louise Thomas 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.

Louise completed her placement at Meithrinfa Chwarae Teg Nursery in Conwy and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



I am a married lady with two grown up daughters and a granddaughter I adore. I had wanted to get a job within childcare and when I saw the advert on Indeed I decided to apply.

I was interviewed by the project coordinator, Lesley Williams, and she offered me a place. I was really pleased to be given this opportunity. The starter paperwork was done and now I was looking forward to starting.

I thoroughly enjoyed the project. The 4 weeks online training were very interesting and I feel I have learnt a lot. I felt fully engaged and part of a lovely team and very well supported. It was very professionally run yet relaxed at the same time. I enjoyed all the training courses and the exams at the end. I feel my 12 week placement was a big success. The nursery is very well run, again very professional yet relaxed. I felt part of the team straight away and fitted in with the staff and management who were lovely and very helpful. I loved being with the children. I asked lots of questions and took note what the staff did and their routine, which helped me to pick it up very quickly. I feel very confident now and I know the routine of the nursery and the children very well.

My 12 weeks placement at Chwarae Teg nursery was amazing. I soon learnt all the nurseries protocols and procedures and felt at home. I bonded with the children fairly quickly and that was when I knew

a career in childcare was for me. After the placement ended the nursery manager asked if I would continue to work there as a supply nursery assistant- I quickly said yes!

Lesley is such a lovely lady and very supportive and encouraging. From day 1 I felt valued. Lesley is very approachable and knowledgeable too. She is always there for us all, also keeps in constant touch. She is very clear with her information and always tells us any questions just ask. She has been so flexible, patient and understanding to all our different needs. I felt very lucky that Lesley gave me a chance on the course and believed in me. She really built up my confidence. She would always build you up and have faith in you. I couldn't have asked for a better boss!

So all in all the project was a huge success for me and I want to thank the whole team for believing in me and giving me the 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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