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

Sharon Marks 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.

Sharon completed her placement at Pufflings Daycare in Kilgetty and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



Before I joined the Childcare Works programme I was jobless. I have always wanted to work with children in a nursery setting but was never able to secure any jobs due to lack of childcare specific qualifications, which really knocked my confidence. I joined the programme to gain more confidence, skills and experience.

I enjoyed the training sessions delivered by the Project Coordinator as all the modules were new to me. I learned so much e.g. how to safeguard children, child development, promoting positive

behaviour, equality and diversity, and so much more. On placement, I was also able to join some training on PATH.

When on placement, I was provided with many opportunities to help children engage in their activities and support colleagues which helped me to learn from their expertise. The programme is a great stepping stone and pathway to achieve my goal of working in childcare, and now have confidence that my career in childcare will develop further.

I am so grateful to the Project Coordinator for ongoing support with everything. She was always ready to help with anything and at any time. She showed me what and how to do things correctly, she helped me to achieve my goal of completing the programme, I am so grateful for her patience and support.

Thank you NDNA.

### Comment from Pufflings Daycare

*'Sharon has fitted in amazingly as a part of our small team, she is respectful of all children and is loved by all of the children she has helped to develop their skills.'*

*Sharon has joined our team with good knowledge and fulfilled all qualifications needed to begin training as a nursery assistant.*

*The project is a wonderful opportunity given to trainees enabling them to try out different job roles to give them an informed choice of career.'*

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### For further information contact

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