

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

Lily Bancroft participated in NDNA Cymru's 16-week Childcare Works programme that was delivered in Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT) from March to June 2025.

The programme was funded by The Moondance Foundation and supported 5 participants from Cardiff and 5 from RCT as Trainee Nursery Assistants.

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

Lily completed her placement at Ynyscynon Nightingales Nursery in Tonypany and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



The opportunity to be a part of the NDNA's Childcare Works programme came at exactly the right time for me.

After working in retail for over 12 years, I had a strong desire to pursue a more rewarding career. I left my old workplace and was thrown into a wilderness of not knowing where or how to start!

After a few months of searching, I was approached by RCT Work and Skills during a routine visit to my local job centre and suggested I applied for the project.

As this was something completely different for me, I was nervous during my interview, however Claudia Wood, the Project Manager, put me at ease and I realised that this is what I was searching for.

Over the course of 16 weeks, NDNA (and more specifically Claudia) has supported myself and four other participants in training and obtaining relevant certificates, in order for us to be Trainee Nursery

Assistants. The assistance, motivation and reassurance that Claudia has provided ensured that I felt confident and capable for the time I was actually practical learning in the setting.

I enjoyed the whole experience thoroughly and would never have known had it not been for the opportunity through the NDNA programme. It's so beneficial.

I have been very fortunate to have been offered a job from the setting as a result and this whole new career has become tangible.

I look forward to my future and can't thank Claudia and NDNA enough for giving me a chance to fulfil my potential!

### **For further information contact**

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