

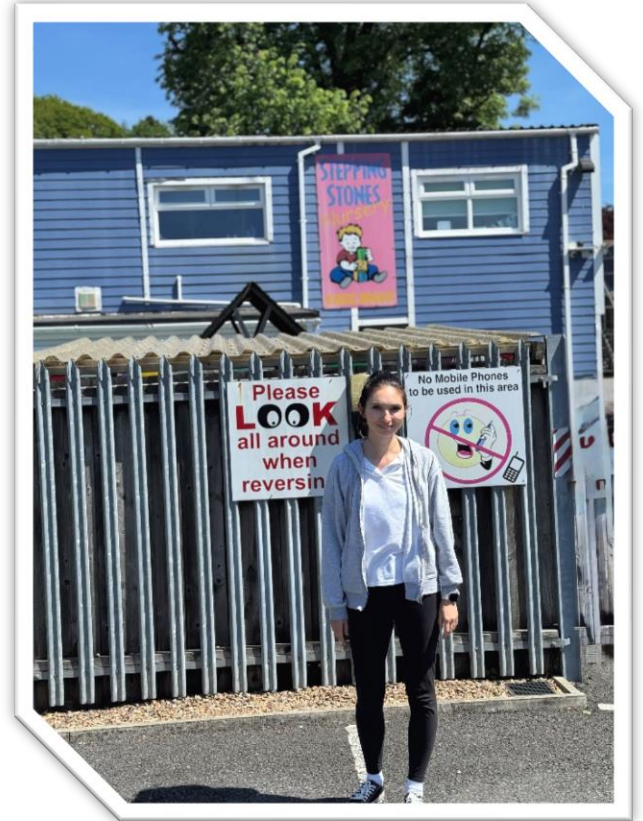
Case study: Childcare Works Project - Trainee Nursery Assistant Experience

Tsvetelina Rapcheva 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.

Tsvetelina completed her placement at Stepping Stones Nursery in Aberdare 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 out of work for several years due to taking time to care for my children. I was feeling settled and prepared to get back into the workforce and was actively looking for employment. I have always wanted to work with children but didn't know where to start without qualifications.

I heard about the Childcare Works programme through RCT Work and Skills I was already hoping I would be offered a place. During the application and interview process I received all the support I needed by the Project Manager Claudia. She explained to me about the project, the training sessions, she was approachable and helpful. The process was smooth, well-organised and positive and I already knew this programme was the perfect fit for me.

The four weeks training sessions were delivered via a virtual classroom, we received lots of useful materials and access to many sources. I really enjoyed the training sessions, I learned so much as most of the modules were new to me.

This programme provided a great foundation for understanding child development. I feel much more confident in my ability to create a safe and stimulating learning environment for children after this training.

When my placement started I was excited to start, the nursery staff at the setting were very kind, friendly and helpful and I felt part of the team soon. I bonded with the children quickly and I knew that was what I would like to work.

I had the opportunity to work in different units, working with the pre-school children, the toddlers and with the babies. It has been a great experience, meeting all the children, getting to know them, learning about their routines and the unit structure.

I gained different skills, boosted my confidence, adapted my communication skills, transferred my hobby- crafting and the most important-enjoyed all the process.

During my time on placement I was offered employment by my placement setting and I decided to go further with my qualifications and I enrolled on the Level 2 Childcare qualification.

Many thanks to Claudia for her continued support and this opportunity.

For further information contact

Claudia Wood – Project Manager

Claudia.wood@ndna.org.uk

01824 730543

07551 441637