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

Evie participated in NDNA Cymru's 16-week Childcare Works programme that was delivered in Pembrokeshire from July to October 2025.

The programme was funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and supported 12 participants from Pembrokeshire.

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

Evie completed her placement at Meithrinfa Do Re Mi Nursery in Haverfordwest and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



My name is Evie Norman, I live in Pembrokeshire with my Husband and my cat Rudy. I have always worked in retail or hospitality and I knew that I wanted to gain a rewarding career that I would be proud of and come home after work feeling like I've achieved something.

I gave it a lot of thought and I knew I wanted a career working with children but I didn't want to go back to college and I wasn't sure how I could go into working with children when I didn't have experience or qualifications. However, whilst looking on indeed I came across NDNA's Trainee Nursery Assistant job vacancy and applied straight away and I got it! I was so happy as it was a step in the right direction.

When the project started, I was quite nervous as I've never done anything like this before and I was worried I wasn't going to be the right fit when I had no experience in this sector before. My worries were put at ease straight away as everyone that was doing the project were extremely friendly and the Project Coordinator and the Project Manager were extremely helpful from the beginning, they're always there when you need help and nothing was ever a worry for them. They helped me gain



National Day Nurseries Association Cymru  
3 Connaught House, Riverside Business Park, Benarth Road, Conwy, LL32 8UB  
Email: [wales@ndna.org.uk](mailto:wales@ndna.org.uk) Tel: 01824 707823 [www.ndna.org.uk/ndna-cymru/](http://www.ndna.org.uk/ndna-cymru/)



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confidence in my work and working at the nursery, which I'll be forever grateful for as I never knew I had that confidence in me because I've never been a confident person.

The course was very interesting and I learnt so much, there were loads of topics that we covered through the training, which was very useful. When I went on placement at my nursery, I used lots of the knowledge from the training, including implementing the Welsh language. I have been wanting to learn Welsh but I didn't have the drive in me. Some of the children at the nursery I was at spoke fluent Welsh, which gave me the push to start learning again. I would recommend the programme to anyone as I have gained so much from it. I have gained certificates, confidence and lots of useful knowledge which I will use in my future childcare career.

Whilst doing my 12 weeks of work placement, I was a bit nervous to start as I've never worked with children before. However, my worries were soon put to ease as everyone at my placement was super friendly and helpful if I had any questions. I soon got to learn about the staff and the children and got stuck in which was amazing. I adored the children and I learnt so much as it was a fantastic nursery to be in. Whilst being at the nursery they didn't have any job vacancy's going however they offered me bank shifts and they said if any job vacancies were to come up in the future they would love to take me on and also work towards my level 2 and 3 qualifications in childcare.

I approached another local nursery for a job and they invited me for an interview, which I was successful at. Unfortunately, a couple of days after offering me 20 hours of work, they withdrew the offer and offered me bank hours instead. I was really disappointed as I was really looking forward to starting work there. I then approached another nursery and was interviewed, also to be offered bank hours.

Lesley supported me for 4 weeks following completion of the project, helping me to find other employment opportunities. I had a further 2 interviews and was finally offered employment by Noah's Ark Nursery and will also be working towards my Level 2 childcare qualification while working there. I am extremely grateful for Lesley's support and dedication to help me find a job in a nursery, she didn't give up on me. I am so looking forward to my future in childcare.

### **For further information contact**

Claudia Wood – Project Manager

[Claudia.wood@ndna.org.uk](mailto:Claudia.wood@ndna.org.uk)

01824 730543

07551 441637



**National Day Nurseries Association Cymru**  
3 Connaught House, Riverside Business Park, Benarth Road, Conwy, LL32 8UB  
Email: [wales@ndna.org.uk](mailto:wales@ndna.org.uk) Tel: 01824 707823 [www.ndna.org.uk/ndna-cymru/](http://www.ndna.org.uk/ndna-cymru/)