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Case study: Childcare Works Project - Trainee Nursery Assistant Experience

Jenny participated in NDNA Cymru's 16-week Childcare Works programme that was delivered in Conwy from October 2025 to February 2026.

The programme was funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and supported 11 participants from Conwy.

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

Jenny completed her placement at Kids Planet Conwy and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a trainee nursery assistant with NDNA and it has been a positive experience throughout the training process. A career in childhood education has always been considered as a possibility to me since I was in school but as I never studied it in higher education I believed it was off the table for me until I saw the NDNA job advertisement on indeed, this is an amazing opportunity I never thought I would have.

My interview experience was very positive and simple with the Project Coordinator Lesley's delightful attitude calming my nerves and anxieties. I was offered the job at the end of the interview which was extremely relieving and reassuring that I was right for the role.

The one month training was conducted online which was a positive, convenient and comfortable experience for me, the training was carried out by Lesley whom made it interactive, captivating and enjoyable. I cannot praise Lesley enough, the way she truly cares for both the training and trainees is immeasurable, she was always available and quick to respond and I would feel comfortable to discuss anything with her. She encouraged us trainees to be comfortable and confident speaking to each other, resulting in friendships and positive bonds. She was happy to answer questions both



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during and after the training, in some instances staying on video call later with me to discuss questions I was too shy to ask in front of others, she never made me feel like a nuisance for this and no question was too silly to ask. She was always encouraging and upbeat, always with a smile on her face.

My placement, which Lesley helped me obtain, was held in Kids Planet Conwy. This was easy for me to access and a great experience overall. There is nothing better than hands on training and that was exactly what I received, true day to day experience in a childcare setting. I got to experience a wide range of ages as the setting provides all day care to children up to 5 years old as well as after school club for children up to 11 years old. I got to experience a wide range of personalities and abilities with some notable experiences being seeing the Montessori method and child led approaches in action, witnessing accident reports and meal/sleep records, learning methods of working with children with additional needs including the use of SEND toys. I was lucky enough to be there while they were carrying out their WellComm assessments on the children so I got to witness this too.

Lesley helped to secure me an interview at a daycare provider which unfortunately after the trial shift was not a good fit. Lesley quickly found another nursery for me to apply for which went great and I have now secured a job as an early years educator with my main responsibilities being the after school club and breakfast club. I am over the moon with this and so excited to start, I am so grateful I have had this opportunity. I would recommend this training programme to anyone wanting a career in early years, I have had only positive experiences!

Feedback from Kids Planet Conwy:

It gives us the opportunity to get to know a perspective employee, and how they would fit in at the nursery, so is a very good idea.

For further information contact

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