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Case study: Childcare Works Project - Trainee Nursery Assistant Experience

Megie 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.

Megie completed her placement at Kids Planet Conwy and Apple Tree Tots in Colwyn Bay and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



I first knew I wanted a career in childcare since I volunteered at my daughters' nursery 12 years ago. Having been out of the workforce raising my family for the last 14 years, applying for jobs was a very daunting task. With little experience and no qualifications, I wasn't hearing anything back from the childcare job vacancies I had applied for. I then saw the advert from the NDNA and applied. I heard back very soon, and had my online meeting with Lesley, the project coordinator. I was absolutely delighted to be offered the role, however, I had very little confidence in myself and was nervous to meet the rest of the group.

My nervousness was put at ease after the first session where I met everyone online and they were all so supportive of each other. There were 4 weeks of training which were incredibly helpful to prepare for the placement. During that time, Lesley and rest of the group were absolutely wonderful to work and learn alongside. We were all supported and encouraged at every step of the way. I was able to obtain certificates in paediatric first aid, food safety and safeguarding - all of these I have been very happy to add to my CV.



National Day Nurseries Association Cymru

3 Connaught House, Riverside Business Park, Benarth Road, Conwy, LL32 8UB
Email: wales@ndna.org.uk Tel: 01824 707823 www.ndna.org.uk/ndna-cymru/



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I had my placement split into two different childcare settings - This was due to car trouble, as I was unable to attend my 1st choice placement until my car was fixed. In both settings I was made to feel welcome and useful. I managed to gain a lot of knowledge about routines and procedures within the settings whilst working with children of various ages, and enjoying everything I had learnt.

Overall, this has been one of the most amazing experiences for me. Not only has it helped me gain confidence in myself, it has solidified my aspirations of working in childcare and made it feel like a career in childcare is now achievable. I am so grateful for this project and what it has given to me in only 16 weeks. All of this has been possible due to how amazing Lesley has conducted the whole experience. I have never felt so supported and encouraged in a role, she is so approachable and easy to talk to, having fantastic communication with everyone involved. Lesley's support has led me to receiving more than one job offer and I am very excited to begin my new role at Rydal Penrhos in the new year. I really am so grateful for all the support. Thank you for helping me find my confidence!

For further information contact

Claudia Wood – Project Manager

Claudia.wood@ndna.org.uk

01824 730543

07551 441637



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