

Exploring Careers Through Technical Routes

Childcare



The Industry

Day care nurseries offer care for children from birth to 5 years. The sector comprises local and regional providers that are either part of a chain or a small independent business. All nurseries have to be registered with the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) and go through a rigorous inspection regime to ensure the quality of their childcare according to national standards.

Some day-to-day tasks include: creating a child friendly environment; planning and supervising activities; encouraging development; helping children to learn numeracy and language skills; taking children on outings; feeding and changing babies; observing and keeping records; making sure children are safe, well, happy and stimulated; distracting children during clinical procedures; maintaining toys and play equipment.

Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years <https://www.pacey.org.uk>
Pre-school Learning Alliance <https://www.pre-school.org.uk>
National Day Nurseries Association <http://www.ndna.org.uk>

Skills and Requirements

Nurseries look for qualities and attributes to benefit their nursery, their children and their staff. These include:

- Good written and oral communication skills
- Good observational skills
- Planning and organising skills
- Skills in drawing, music or other creative activities
- Being caring, patient and kind
- Having imagination with the ability to have fun
- Being health and safety conscious
- An awareness of child protection and safeguarding
- An understanding of diversity
- Adherence to the Ofsted framework, legal and company policies
- Mutual respect for others and a team worker
- Professional in dress, conduct, personal hygiene
- Good IT skills to support the growing demand for learning resources, administration and management systems.

You will also need an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check to ensure employees are safe and suitable to work with children before they start employment.

'The running of day care nurseries is currently worth around £4 billion a year with an estimated 23,500 nurseries employing over 188,000 people.

Source: Family and Childcare Trust in association with the British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA)

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Working and Learning in Childcare



Job Roles & Progression

Many nurseries seek extra help so volunteering can be a good start provided you have your DBS.

Study Programme

To work in childcare you need to have a minimum of a Level 2 qualification to comply with Ofsted and EYFS regulations and standards.

Level 2

Introduction to Early Years Education and Care.

Level 3

Early Years Education.



Further study

Level 4 Advanced Practitioner.
Level 4 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development.
Fd Early Childhood Studies.
BA (Hons) Early Years.
Levels 5 and 6 Leadership and Management.



Apprenticeships
Intermediate & Advanced
 Childcare.



Career roles

Qualified nursery practitioner.
 Nursery Manager who will also require business skills.
 Nursery administrator.
 Accounting staff in a larger nursery.
 Specialise in an area such as special needs.

Calculation including problem solving

Tasks

1. Plan and manage your time in the nursery daily routines.
2. Help children to grasp the concept of numbers through counting with different coloured bricks.
3. Produce an accurate scale diagram to calculate the amount of resources required for a specific play activity.
4. Bake cakes with children to help them understand measurement of quantities.
5. Help children to understand how we measure time and how time is important in our lives.

Links to GCSE Maths

1. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, subtraction; fractions (fraction arithmetic)).
2. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, subtraction).
3. **Ratio, proportion and rates of change** (ratio in context - scale factors).
4. **Number** (fractions - using fractions, fractions of amounts).
5. **Geometry and measure** (units of measure - time).

Communication, all forms

Tasks

1. Communicate with children, colleagues, parents, social workers and other visitors at an open day.
2. Write a play suitable for children to perform.
3. Keep formal records of each child's progress in terms of spelling and grammar.
4. Explain the meanings of new words to children to ensure they understand.
5. Read a story to children.

Links to GCSE English Language

1. **Spoken Language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose, discussion skills, individual presentations; personal presence - body language, eye contact, posture, gestures).
2. **Writing** (writing fiction - writing a play; literary techniques - descriptive language; vocabulary - expanding vocabulary).
3. **Writing** (planning - a table).
4. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose).
5. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - individual presentation; personal presence - body language, gestures; voice - controlling your voice, pitch, tone).