

Prepare for an Apprenticeship in Child Care

If you are interested in working in Child Care via the apprenticeship route you may want to find out more about what you can do to strengthen your application. The following will help with this.

Where can I look for an Apprenticeship?

One of the first things to do is to register with the Government apprenticeship website. This will alert you to Child Care apprenticeships happening near you. Register [here](#).

Other national apprenticeship websites to register with include:

[Career Finder](#)

[Notgoingtouni](#)

[Getmyfirstjob](#)

[RateMyApprenticeship](#)

[Indeed](#)

You can also register with local Colleges and Training Providers in Oxfordshire that cover Child Care Apprenticeships.

[Willow Cottage Nurseries](#)

[Oxfordshire Apprenticeships](#)

[Oxfordshire County Council](#)

What should you check for ?

What's the Level of apprenticeship?

Level 2 Intermediate, Level 3 Advanced, Level 4/5 Higher or Level 6 Degree

What are the entry requirements?

Will you need GCSE passes? How many? Or A-Levels or BTECs? Are there any grades and subjects needed?

Where is the employer's location?

How will you get there - by walking, bus, train? Will you need to move and find accommodation?

What qualifications will you gain with the apprenticeship?

For example, Level 2 Childcare Apprentice

What training provider or college is linked to the apprenticeship? Where are they based and how will you get there?

Who offers Child Care Apprenticeships?

It is worth approaching any Nurseries or Schools that you would like to work for and asking if they are likely to have any apprenticeships available when you leave school.

For more information on what's involved with the different roles see below

[Nursery Worker](#)

[Teaching Assistant](#)

What will they be looking for?

Employers will look for:

- A caring nature
- Good communication skills – written and verbal, for communicating with other staff and parents and record keeping.
- Willingness to learn and train - nothing stands stills, roles are always developing.
- Enthusiasm.
- Organisational skills and forward-thinking – understanding what needs to be done and planning for it.
- Practical skills, playing, drawing, cooking etc
- Patience
- Health and safety conscious

How can I demonstrate I have the skills? How can I stand out from the crowd?

You will need an excellent CV to sell you and your skills and strengths.

For an example of a school leavers' CV see [here](#).

Look at industry websites to find out what they are discussing, for example

[National Association of Professional Teaching Assistants](#)

[National Education Union](#)

[Nursery World](#)

[National Day Nurseries Association](#)

How can I prepare for interviews?

Employers will expect you to understand the role and what you will be required to do. They will expect you to be organised so turn up for the interview on time, research the company or organisation before the interview and know the names of the people who will be interviewing you. Be prepared to talk about any experience you have had caring for young children.

For general advice on interviews please see

[National Careers Service](#)

[Apprenticeships.gov](#)

[UCAS](#)

Be friendly and polite and remember to smile.

YouTube has lots of clips on the work of apprentices.

Where can a career in Child Care take you?

With experience within a Nursery, you could move into management or training. You can also work in a more specialist role with children who have learning difficulties or in a hospital. You may decide to take your qualifications further and train as a teacher. In the voluntary sector, you could become a project worker, therapist, protection officer or support worker for a charity.

Anything else I should know?

Be well prepared, start your search early, and keep a list of where you have applied to. Practice interviews. Be confident in yourself.

Working with children is regulated and you will have to undergo a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.

Have a backup plan.

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