



Best  
Practice  
Network

# Guide to Early Years and Education Training Programmes

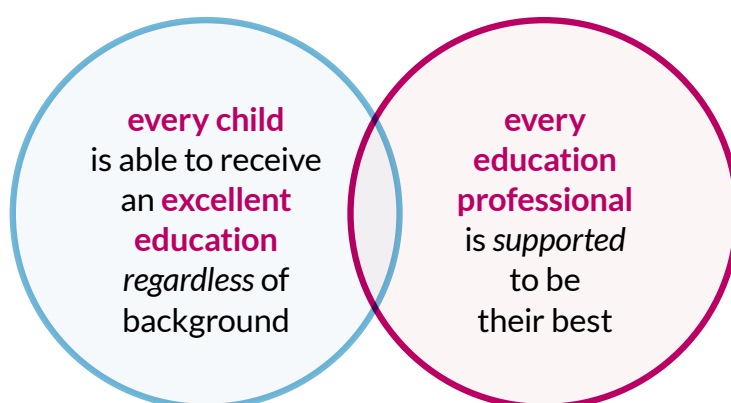
Supporting a  
skills-based  
workforce



Funded  
apprenticeships  
and training  
programmes

At Best Practice Network,  
we recognise how important  
the early years are  
in children's development.

We have a vision that...



Supporting you to support them

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# How apprenticeships could benefit your setting

Apprenticeships can be used to recruit, upskill and retrain your staff

Apprenticeships are work-based training programmes that are designed to help employers train people for specific job roles. Apprentices get a paying job with valuable training while they work towards a nationally recognised apprenticeship standard. An apprenticeship can be for new or existing staff.

Best Practice Network is a national apprenticeship provider working exclusively with schools and nurseries to deliver apprenticeship training.

## Hiring an apprentice

You can employ apprentices at different levels, from school leavers or recent graduates to people who wish to advance in their careers or change careers altogether.

The government offers a range of funding options to help settings support apprentice training.

If you need help recruiting for an apprentice in your setting or school, we can help! Speak to our recruitment team.

## Upskill your workforce

By using apprenticeships to upskill your existing staff, you are helping to fill key gaps in your business, improving staff retention and supporting their professional development.

Here at Best Practice Network we support learners through our career pathway, developing their skill from level 2 to level 5 (equivalent to a full degree). Find out more about our Early Years Career pathway on [page 9](#).

## Funding an apprentice!

Most schools and nurseries have access to ring-fenced funding to support staff at all levels onto apprenticeship training programmes.

Our apprenticeship programmes qualify for funding from the English apprentice levy fund. Best Practice Network provides support to candidates and their employers in order to access this funding.

For guidance on how the funding routes apply to your setting, speak to one of our apprenticeship experts on +44 (0)117 290 2900 or email [enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk)

An employer incentive payment of £3,000 is available for new apprentices, with an additional £1,000 for candidates aged 16 to 18 or up to 24 if you have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).

## £ Funding routes

**If your setting contributes to the apprenticeship levy fund**

Levy paying employers can access their fund contributions through your **Apprenticeship Service Account**. You can use this service to manage the funds you have available for apprenticeship training in England.

**If your setting does not contribute to the apprenticeship levy fund**

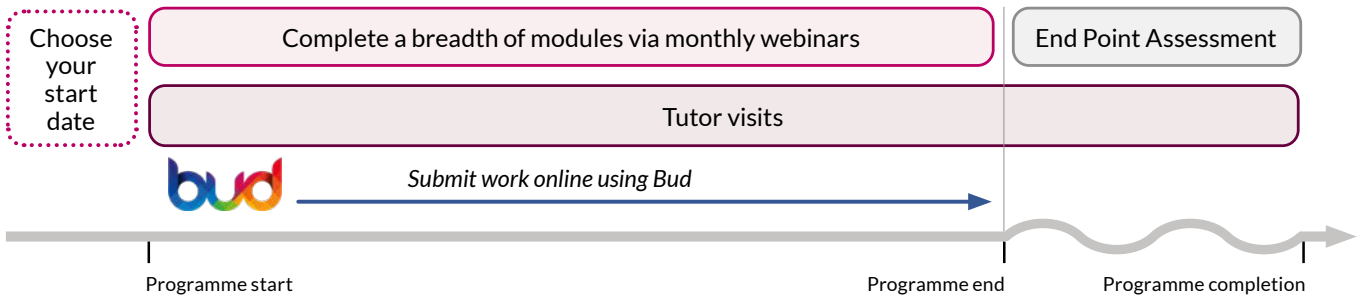
**You pay 5%** towards the cost of the training for your apprentice. The remaining **95%** will be paid by the government.

**Apprenticeship Levy Transfer**

Employers with unspent funds can **transfer up to 25%** of that contribution to another employer. That means you can benefit from the levy-contributions of a different organisation to cover the full costs of an apprenticeship for your setting.

# How are our apprenticeships delivered?

- These programmes have various start dates – they do not run as per the typical academic year
- Work is submitted using Bud, the cutting-edge online platform, which is easy to use and includes login access for employers to keep track of their apprentice's progress



## Off-the-job training

Apprentices are required to spend 20% of their working hours acquiring new workplace skills, knowledge and behaviours. However, this includes any work-place activities that bring new learning.



### Supporting employers

We recognise how important it is to you that you find apprentices who are the best fit for your early years setting, that they have ongoing support, and that you know how they are progressing at every step.

### Benefits for nurseries

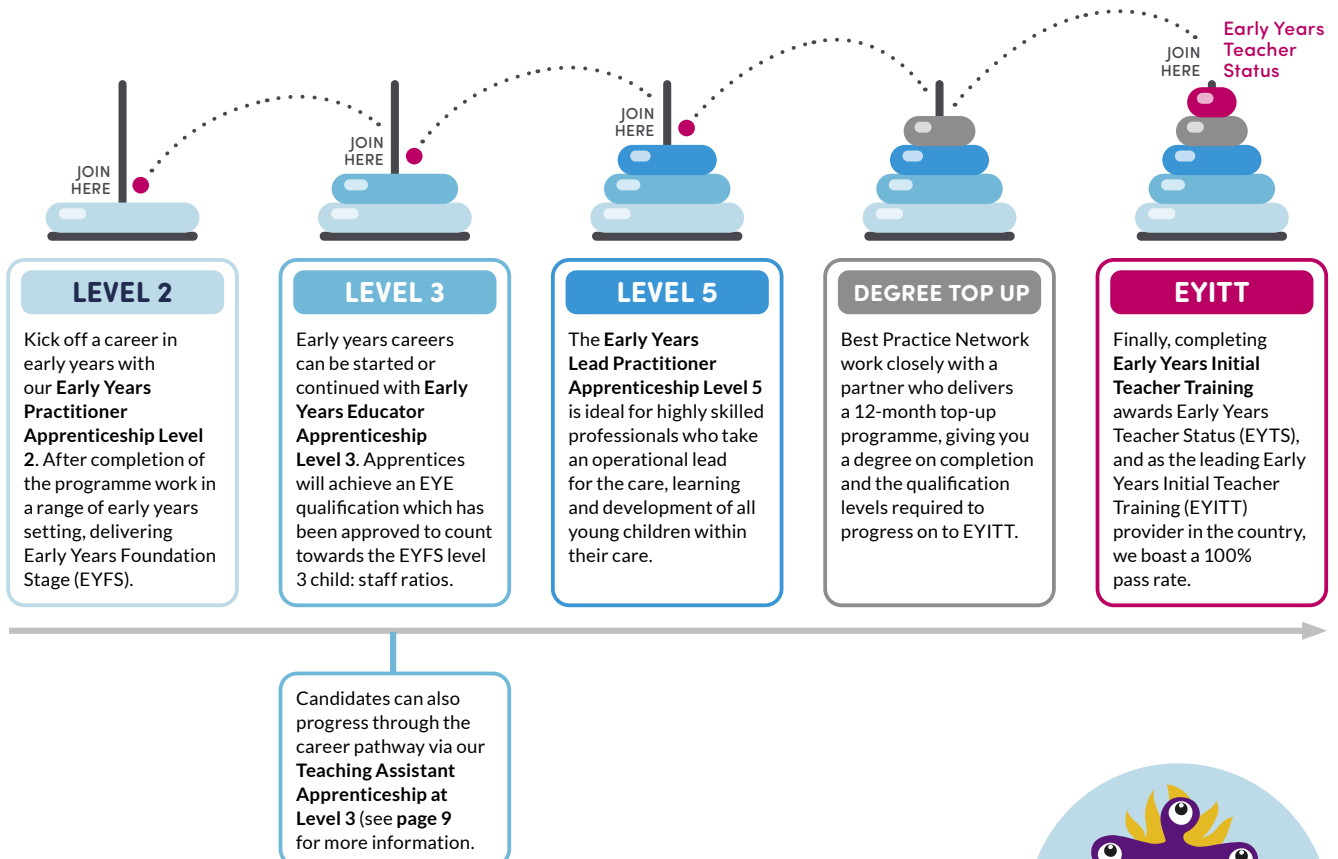
By joining the Best Practice Network apprentice programme, the apprentice can be assured that they're joining a program that supports them every step of the way and equips them to succeed, both in the program and in their career.

# Early Years Career Pathway



As part of our Early Years initiative, learners who wish to become early years professionals, or those already working in education, can take part in our programmes and advance onto other qualifications.

By progressing through the *Early Years Career Pathway* learners will develop the skills and knowledge needed to support children from early childhood through to the start of key stage 2. The initiative supports learners in achieving their own ambitions and allows them to gain the skills required to support the next generation in being able to reach theirs.



Learn more at [bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/early-years](https://bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/early-years)





## Early Years Practitioner (EYP) Apprenticeship Level 2

An entry level qualification for those wanting to start a career in early years

Best Practice Network has combined the essentials of Early Years Theory and practical application, making this programme the perfect introduction to a career in early years.

### Who is it for?

- An entry level work-based Early Years training programme, ideal for those wanting to enter a career as a Nursery Practitioner, Classroom Assistant or Pre-school Practitioner
- Suitable for either someone already working in or someone looking for a career in, an early years childcare and education setting

### Entry requirements

- No age restrictions

#### Apprentices must have:

- Support from your employer and levy account holder
- Successful completion of screening interview
- Residency in the UK for the last three years

### Benefits

- ✔ Learn how to support and promote children's early education and development, contribute to the planning and the organisation of activities in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage, and support the collection of accurate and up-to-date records which identify children's individual needs, abilities and progress
- ✔ Develop effective and informed practice that safeguards and promotes the health, safety and welfare of children
- ✔ The apprenticeship is levy-funded, with an employer incentive payments available
- ✔ Apprentices receive a higher level of support with monthly tutor visits and taught sessions

Learn more at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYP](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYP)





## Early Years Educator (EYE) Apprenticeship Level 3

A funded work-based training programme in an Early Years setting

Best Practice Network has developed this industry-leading programme that will deliver the knowledge base alongside the skills and behaviours an apprentice will attain in the workplace.

### Who is it for?

- Suitable for either someone already working in or someone looking for a career in, an early years childcare and education setting
- Ideal for someone looking to pursue a career as an Early Years Educator, Nursery Teaching Assistant, Nursery Nurse, Supervisor, or Child Minder

### Entry requirements

- No age restrictions

#### Apprentices must have:

- GCSE's in English and Maths at Grade C (4) or above **or** able to achieve Level 2 English and Maths whilst on programme
- Successful completion of screening interview
- Support from your employer and levy account holder
- Residency in the UK for the last three years

### Benefits

- ✓ Learn how to support and promote children's early education and development, plan and provide effective care, teaching and learning that enables children to progress and prepares them for school
- ✓ Make accurate and productive use of assessment and develop effective and informed practice
- ✓ The apprenticeship is levy-funded, with an employer incentive payments available
- ✓ Apprentices receive a higher level of support with monthly tutor visits and taught sessions



Learn more at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYE](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYE)



## Early Years Lead Practitioner (EYLP) Apprenticeship Level 5

A funded work-based training programme focused on those working with and caring for children from birth to 8 years

Building on our entry level programmes and using our industry expertise to build a programme for those wanting to further their knowledge and careers.

### Who is it for?

- Suitable for someone already working in early years who is looking to lead, or is already leading, on the operational aspects of their setting
- An active practitioner looking to advance their career and be an effective role model of play-based learning, supporting others in the development of their own practice and being responsible for the quality of the learning and development in their setting

### Entry requirements

- No age restrictions

#### Apprentices must have:

- Level 3 Early Years Educator or Equivalent Qualifications / extensive experience in a leadership position
- GCSE's in English and Maths at Grade C (4) or above **or** able to achieve Level 2 English and Maths whilst on programme

- Successful completion of entry interview
- Support from your employer and levy account holder
- Residency in the UK for the last three years

### Benefits

- ✔ Learn how to support and promote children's early education and development, support the quality of learning and development at your setting and lead day-to-day practice at an operational level
- ✔ Engage with sector developments both locally and nationally and work in partnership with the key person, colleagues, parents and/or carers or other professionals
- ✔ The apprenticeship is levy-funded, with an employer incentive payments available

Learn more at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYLP](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYLP)





# Early Years Apprenticeships: At a glance

	Early Years Practitioner (EYP) Level 2	Early Years Educator (EYE) Level 3	Early Years Lead Practitioner (EYLP) Level 5
Care age range	0 to 5	0 to 5	0 to 8
Eligibility		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCSE's in English and Maths at Grade C (4) or above or able to achieve Level 2 English and Maths whilst on programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GCSE's in English and Maths at Grade C (4) or above or able to achieve Level 2 English and Maths whilst on programme</li> <li>Level 3 Early Years Educator or Equivalent Qualifications / Experience</li> </ul>
Programme duration	12 months	Up to 18 months	Up to 24 months
Levy funded	✓	✓	✓
Full induction for both the employer and the apprentice	✓	✓	✓
Dedicated Tutor	✓	✓	✓
Tutor Visits	Monthly	Every 6 weeks	Every 6 weeks
Monthly reviews	✓	✓	✓
Taught lessons	✓		
Knowledge webinars		✓	✓
One-to-one functional skills support	✓	✓	✓
Learner access to our E-learning Platform Bud for building E-portfolio	✓	✓	✓
Setting access to our E-learning Platform Bud to be able to track learner progress	✓	✓	✓
Qualifications earned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 2 Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship</li> <li>NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 3 Early Years Educator Apprenticeship</li> <li>NCFE Diploma for the Early Years Workforce (EYE). Level 3 Award in Paediatric First Aid OR Level 3 Award in Emergency Paediatric First Aid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship</li> </ul>
Qualification counts towards EYFS Level 3 child:staff ratios		✓	✓

## How to apply

**Employers** should contact Best Practice Network via [enquiries@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk) to reserve a place on the required programme.

We will then support the employer in gathering all necessary information, recruitment, registering with **Apprenticeship Service Account** and funding applications.

**Apprentices** should complete the application via the programme page on our **website**, where they will need to upload proof of existing qualifications and complete a short Maths and English initial assessment where necessary.

100%  
pass  
rate

## Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT)

The only teacher training focused on the birth to five age range

EYITT leads to Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) and is designed for those who wish to specialise in early childhood development work with children across the birth to five age range.

### Who is it for?

- Graduate early years practitioners who may work in a range of settings across the birth to five sector, including nurseries, schools, home-based settings
- Graduates who want to join the early years sector
- Full-time undergraduates on Early Childhood Studies degree programmes

### How is it delivered?

We offer two funded routes to Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS):

#### Graduate Entry Route (GE)

- **Funding:** Fully funded by the DfE. Up to £5,000 bursary
- **Placement:** 120 days of placements
- **Status:** Full-time training
- **Training:** Monthly training days

#### Graduate Employment-based Route (GEB)

- **Funding:** Fully funded by the DfE. Up to £7,000 bursary
- **Placement:** A placement within KS1
- **Status:** Part-time training. Experience needed in at least two settings (one of which must be reception)
- **Training:** 1–2 training days a month
- You can work towards Early Years Teacher Status whilst employed in an early years setting/school

### Entry requirements

- A degree on entry (from any area of study)
- GCSE Grade C or above (or recognised equivalent) in Maths, English and Science. If candidates do not have these qualifications then we can advise on completing an equivalency test instead.

### Benefits

- ✔ As the leading EYITT provider in the country with a 100% pass rate, our course is proven to raise the quality of a setting's early years provision, be a core element of your team development, and improve children's life chances
- ✔ For schools, a qualified Early Years Teacher leading EYFS helps close the disadvantage gap and prepares children for primary education
- ✔ For graduate practitioners who are eligible for a place on the programme, an employer incentive of £7,000 is payable to the setting. This funding can be used for supply cover, mentoring and other costs associated with supporting the trainee during the programme.



Learn more at [bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/eyitt](https://bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/eyitt)

NEW!

## Teaching Assistant (TA) Apprenticeship Level 3



A funded programme that invests in the professional development of teaching assistants with personalised learner pathways

Best Practice Network has developed this programme to develop the skills and knowledge of teaching assistants to deliver structured interventions that help improve learner outcomes.

### Who is it for?

- Suitable for anyone already working in, or looking for a career in a teaching support role
- An active early years educator looking to take the next step in their career progression

### Entry requirements

- No age restrictions

#### Apprentices must have:

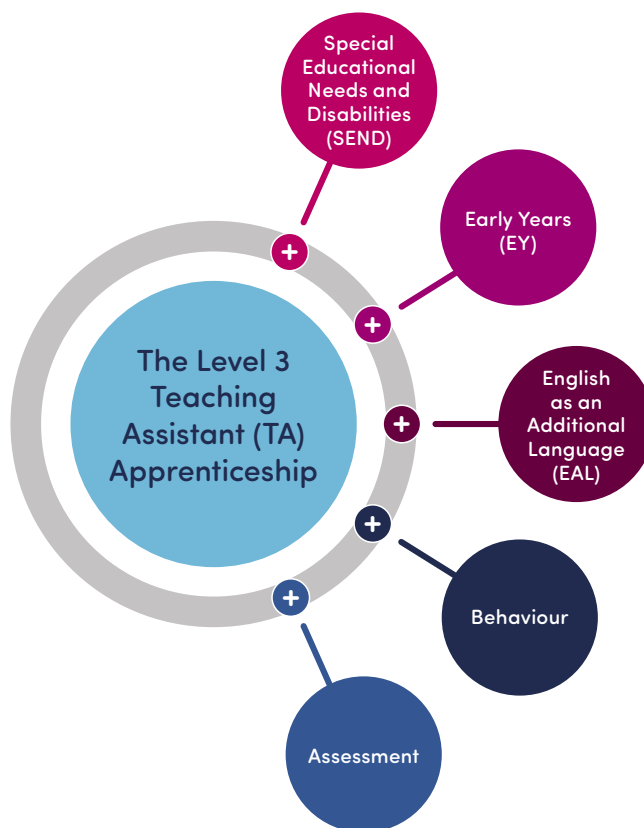
- GCSEs in English and Maths at Grade C (4) or above or able to achieve Level 2 English and Maths whilst on the programme
- Successful completion of screening interview
- Support from your school and levy account holder
- Residency in the UK for the last three years

### Benefits

- ✓ Flexible approach to learning for both the school and learner, whereby all learners will gain the fundamental knowledge and develop the skills required to support teachers to enhance pupil learning
- ✓ Potential fast-track to Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) status
- ✓ The apprenticeship is levy-funded, with employer-incentive payments available
- ✓ Learners will be able to personalise their learning based on their choice of specialist area(s).

### Programme specialist areas

Tailor your learning by choosing up to two specialist areas from the below:



Learn more at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/TA](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/TA)

Join us for a catch up at one of our  
*Coffee Mornings or After Work Drinks at*

## The Virtual Staff Room

These are free and informal networking sessions.

Each session will start with an online briefing on a specialist subject, then following on with live networking, giving you the opportunity to speak with like-minded professionals, where we encourage you to bring along your questions and share your school's experiences on the subject.

Regardless of where your setting is based, or its size, everyone is welcome; the aim of these sessions is to bring together educators from all areas.



Visit [bestpracticenet.co.uk/thevirtualstaffroom](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/thevirtualstaffroom) or scan this QR code to view our upcoming Virtual Staff Room sessions and book your place online

**Best Practice Network** is a registered apprenticeship training provider and an accredited provider of professional development for education professionals nationally, with 97% of our participants recommending us to a colleague.

We work in close partnership with practising education professionals to develop and deliver high-quality programmes.

**Learn. Share. Grow.**



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