



Best
Practice
Network

Delivered across England

Multiple yearly starts

Support with recruitment

Become an Early Years Lead Practitioner

with the Early Years Lead Practitioner Level 5 Apprenticeship.



EYLP AT A GLANCE

Course Duration: Up to 24 months

- ✓ Online training
- ✓ Tutor on site visits
- ★ Early Years Lead Practitioner Level 5

"I'd recommend the course to anybody who was interested in childcare."

"It has been amazing so far."

"I'm excited for the rest of my journey."

Learn. Share. Grow.

About

The Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner apprenticeship is a funded work-based training programme focused on those working with and caring for children from 0–5 years, with knowledge of 5–8 years.

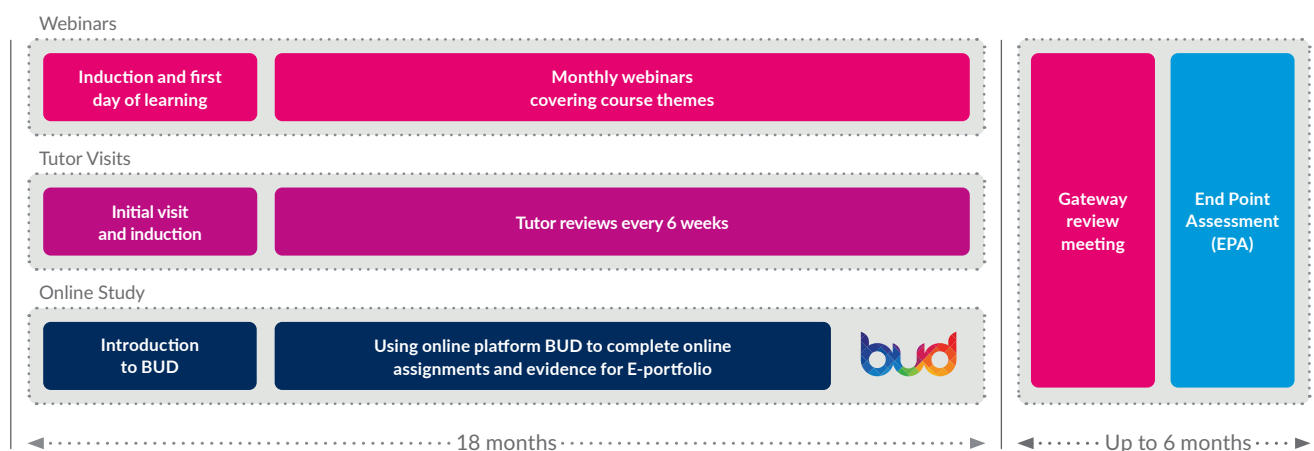
This Level 5 apprenticeship is suitable if you are already working in, or aspiring to work in Early Years childcare, with responsibility for leading other practitioners or groups.

It is an excellent progression route for practitioners who hold a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification in Early Years; this course will enhance your practice and knowledge in line with up-to-date approaches.

As a Lead Practitioner, you will be an effective role model of play-based learning, supporting others to develop their own practice and will be responsible for supporting the quality of learning and development across your setting.

What will I be learning?

The course is delivered over 18 months, including 7 taught themes, monthly webinars, tutor visits and coursework.



How will I be learning?

The programme offers a blended approach including virtual classrooms, webinars, work-based tasks and online assignments. We use online learning platforms that help you learn the topics and skills, reflect on your practice and build your portfolio. You will also receive one-to-one support and tuition from your apprenticeship tutor.

Reviews

You will have reviews and support from your tutor every 6 weeks, either by a visit to your setting or online. Your employer/mentor will be an integral part of these reviews.

Curriculum themes

There are 7 learning themes that are taught over the 18 months via webinars. Each theme will have 1–3 webinars around the topic with coursework to complete for your portfolio.

The 7 themes are:

- Theme 1** The unique child
- Theme 2** Implementation of legislation and guidance
- Theme 3** Learning and development
- Theme 4** Effective promotion of development, health, and wellbeing
- Theme 5** Leading practice
- Theme 6** Child development, observation, and planning
- Theme 7** Administration

Off-the-job training

For the apprenticeship, a certain amount of your working hours should be focused on gaining new learning.

The amount will be dependent on your contracted hours per week. Please see the table for more information.

See below for more examples.

Contract hours	Off-the-job training
30 hours or more	Average of 6 hours per week
Less than 30 hours	20% of working hours and the programme length will be extended accordingly
Term time only contract	More than 6 hours per week



Functional skills

If you have not secured a grade 4 (C) or above (or equivalent) in maths and English GCSE, you will be required to complete functional skills in:

- **English** – reading, writing, speaking and listening
- **Maths** – calculator with a non-calculator section

You will be supported on a one-to-one basis by your apprenticeship tutor to complete these as quickly as possible using a range of training materials to best suit you.

Gateway

On programme completion, you, your employer and apprenticeship tutor will meet to agree you are ready for your End Point Assessment.

This is also a chance for your tutor to help with any questions you have about the assessment, and make sure you are confident and happy to proceed.

End Point Assessment (EPA)

The assessment period is for up to 6 months but can be quickly achieved.

- Assessment 1 – Observation of practice
- Assessment 2 – Professional discussion through your portfolio
- Assessment 3 – Case study and presentation

“Your apprenticeship allows you to earn while you learn, boosting skills of the early years workforce.”

Sarah Bishop,
Apprenticeship Tutor



What do I need to apply?

You must be 16 or over and meet these points to apply.

GCSE English & maths
Grade C (4) or above
OR able to achieve
both on our programme
through functional
skills.

Level 3 Early
Years Educator
or equivalent
qualifications
or extensive
experience.

UK residency
for 3+ years.

Support from
your employer
OR support
finding an
employer.

Funding agreed
with the
apprenticeship
account holder.
**Support is
available.**

A successful
interview with
our tutor.

Interview stage

You will undertake an initial interview as part of the application stage led by one of our Early Years team. This is a chance for you to ask any further questions and for our team to know your individual needs for undertaking the course.

How to apply

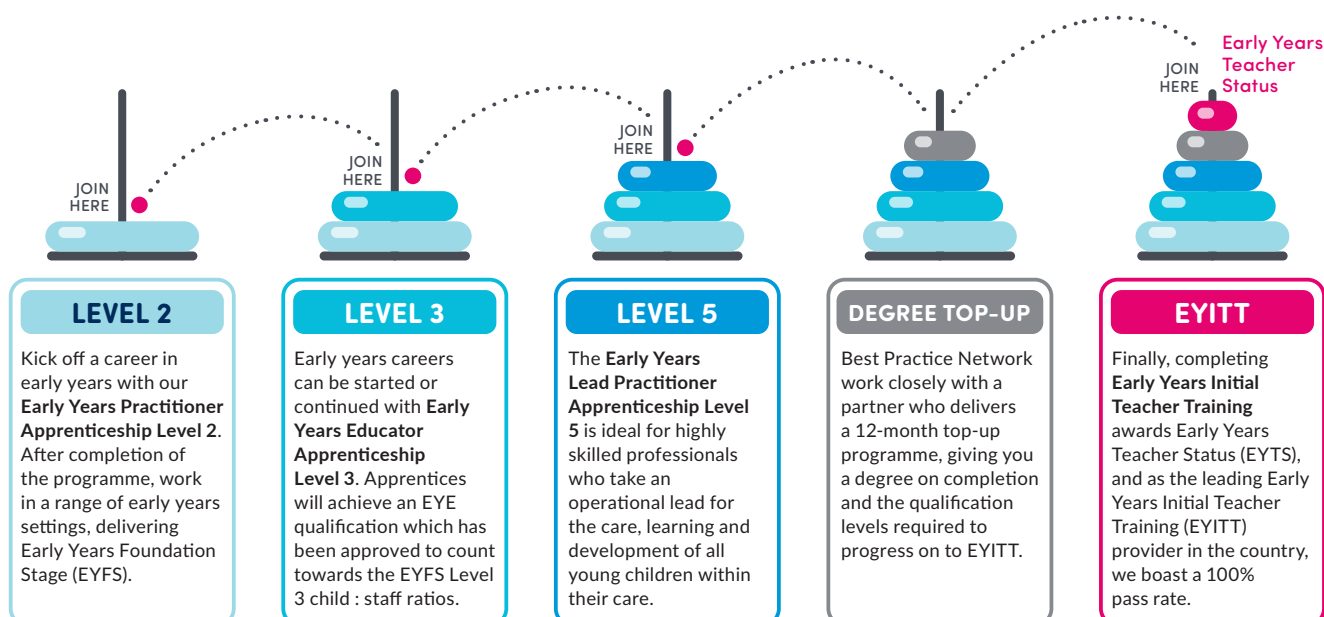
To apply, you should complete the application via the **programme page** on our website. Our team will be in touch to guide you through the next steps. You will need to upload proof of existing qualifications and complete a short maths and English initial assessment where necessary.

Funding

As an apprentice, you will not have to pay any money towards your course. You will need the support from your setting, who can access funds from the English apprentice levy fund. Best Practice Network can help your employer with information and support if needed to apply for these funds.

Where do I go next?

The Early Years Lead Practitioner Level 5 is the equivalent to a foundation degree. You could progress to a top-up degree and Early Years Teacher Status.



How apprenticeships could benefit your setting



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 on +44 (0) 117 920 9428 or email enquiries@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk

What is the levy fund?

The English apprentice levy fund is controlled by the Department for Education and was created as a long-term funding solution for companies to hire and train apprentices.

Our apprenticeship programmes qualify for funding from the English apprentice levy fund. Best Practice Network provides support to candidates and their employers 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) 117 920 9428 or email enquiries@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk

Enrol your employees

Employers should contact Best Practice Network via enquiries@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk to reserve a place on the required programme.

We will then support you with gathering all necessary information, recruitment, registering with Apprenticeship Service Account and funding applications.

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).

£ Funding routes

If your setting contributes to the apprenticeship levy fund

Levy paying employers can access their fund contributions through their **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.

If your setting has fewer than 50 employees

You will receive **100% of the funding** where the apprentice is 16-18 years old or is between 19-24 and has a local authority education, health and care plan.

Employers and training providers will both receive an **additional £1,000** where the apprentice is between 16 and 18 years old.



“Once you have the motivation to lead effective early years guidance in practice, your staff will feel truly supported through positive staff experiences.”

Michelle Evans,
Apprenticeship Tutor



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.

Rated
“an exceptional
training provider”

– Department for Education

Learn. Share. Grow.



+44 (0) 117 920 9428
enquiries@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk
bestpracticenetwork.co.uk

