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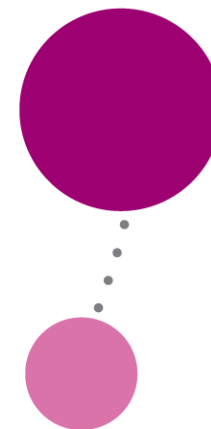


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From Leavers to Leaders

Childcare Apprenticeships  
Taster Session



# Today's Journey - From Leavers to Leaders

- Working in Early Years
- Who are Best Practice Network?
- Our training and where it can take you
- Support every step of the way
- Child Development taster session
- Q&A and next steps

*Discover how a career in Early Years can take you all the way to leadership*



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# Working in Early Years

Do something big  
– work with small children



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# Working in Early Years

- With around 30,000 nurseries and pre-schools across the UK, there are plenty of opportunities!
- One of the fastest-growing sectors in the UK
- Huge demand for skilled professionals and DfE is increasing Early Years training funding every year
- Work that makes a difference: shaping children's futures
- Opportunities to progress from day one

# Working in Early Years



***"There are so many opportunities in childcare and in my opinion, it's one of the most rewarding jobs you can do."***

Caitlin, Early Years Apprenticeship Level 5 graduate now studying for her degree



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# Working in Early Years

***"I just love walking into the room in the morning with the children shouting your name. It's like one big family."***

Serreah, Early Years Practitioner  
Apprentice at Snapdragons  
Nursery



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# Who are Best Practice Network?

Best Practice Network is one of the UK's top Early Years training providers, rated *Ofsted Outstanding*. We help people start and grow their careers in childcare - from entry level apprenticeships through to becoming an Early Years Teacher.

## What we offer:

**Earn while you learn** – Get hands-on experience and recognised qualifications with no university debt.

**Fully funded training** – Government or employer-funded, **ZERO** cost to apprentices.

**Opportunities near you** – We work with nurseries and early years settings all over England.

**Support at every step** – From finding your placement to celebrating your graduation.



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Funded by  
  
Department  
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# Our Early Years Training

A full pathway for your career –  
from Leavers to Leaders!



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# Our Early Years training



- Earn while you learn – **zero tuition fees to pay!**
- Gain a nationally recognised qualification
- Learn by doing from day 1 in a professional childcare setting – **no college required**
- Get expert tutor support and flexible learning that fits around you and your learning style
- Build confidence, communication and career-ready skills
- Opens doors to higher education and leadership roles

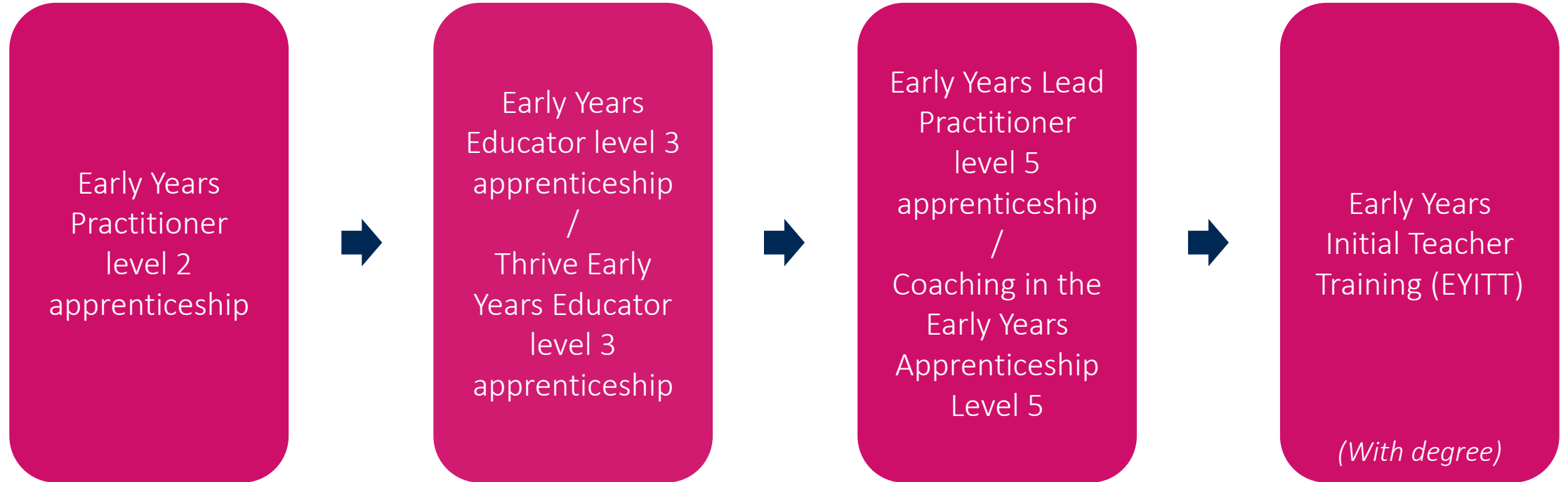


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# Early Years Progression route



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# Early Years Practitioner level 2 apprenticeship

- 12 month programme + 3 months apprenticeship assessment (for full time learner)
- Functional skills maths and English L1 required if apprentice does not already have equivalent qualifications (**mandatory for 16-18 year olds**)
- Ideal for learners who are new to an early years setting/the workplace or not quite ready for level 3
- Consists of 9 core modules, including child development, health and safety, safeguarding and purposeful play & assessment
- Apprenticeship assessment methods: Observation and questioning and a professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence



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# Early Years Educator level 3 apprenticeship



- 15 month programme + 3 months apprenticeship assessment (for full time learner – minimum duration 12 months)
- Fully recognised and supports meeting ratio requirements for EYE L3 in an EY setting
- Functional skills maths and English L2 (**mandatory for 16-18 year olds**)
- Learners will need to complete paediatric first aid and submit their certificate as part of their apprenticeship
- Consists of 11 modules + assessment preparation – including safeguarding, H&S, child development, a unique child, enabling environments and teaching, learning & assessment
- Apprenticeship assessment methods – observation and questioning, professional discussion and portfolio of evidence
- Alternative program co-operate with Thrive to provide extra child development, behavior and wellbeing learning.

# Our Delivery Plan



Blended programme of face to face and online study, while most of the training providers are doing online learning ONLY



Progress reviews every 6 weeks



Specialist 1-2-1 Tutor Support - 25% better tutor:learner ratio than the industry



BPN boost – personal development, career information advice and guidance and welfare programme



Regular reflections on learning and practice



Partnership working between BPN, the apprentice and the employer



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# A typical week as an apprentice

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Room set-up</li> <li>- Free play</li> <li>- Group activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Room set-up</li> <li><b>*Storytelling observation (45 mins)*</b></li> <li>- Snack time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Room set-up</li> <li><b>*Shadowing SENCo (45 mins)*</b></li> <li>- Outdoor play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Room set-up</li> <li><b>*Peer observation (30 mins)*</b></li> <li>- Group activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Room set-up</li> <li>- Outdoor play</li> <li><b>*Reflective notes (30 mins)*</b></li> </ul>
Midday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lunch prep</li> <li>- Lunch break</li> <li>- Nap time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lunch prep</li> <li>- Lunch break</li> <li><b>*eLearning (1 hr)*</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lunch prep</li> <li>- Lunch break</li> <li>- Nap time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lunch prep</li> <li>- Lunch break</li> <li>- Nap time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lunch prep</li> <li>- Lunch break</li> </ul>
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creative activity</li> <li>- Outdoor play</li> <li>- Tidy up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creative activity</li> <li>- Outdoor play</li> <li><b>*Weekly reflection (30 mins)*</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creative activity</li> <li>- Outdoor play</li> <li>- Tidy up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creative activity</li> <li>- Outdoor play</li> <li>- Tidy up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creative activity</li> <li>- Outdoor play</li> <li>- Story time</li> <li><b>*Virtual Classroom (2hours)*</b></li> </ul>

# Finding you a placement

Matching you with the right setting



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# How we find the right placement for you

- Screening call to understand what kind of setting would suit you and to check eligibility
- Check current vacancies and share suitable options with you
- Support on how to approach local settings if we do not have suitable vacancies available
- CV sharing with matching settings local to you
- Matched candidates are offered an interview at the setting (stay and play/work trial).
- If no placement offered: we continue the search for an employer and supply helpful feedback



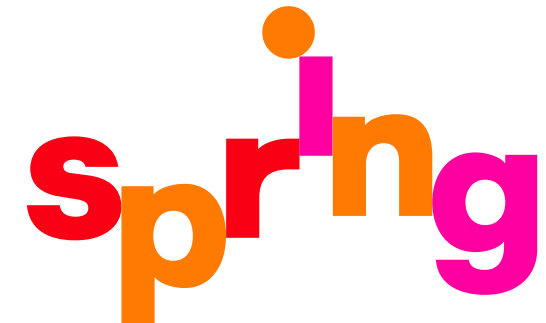
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# Our Partners



by Action for Children



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# Leaver Pathway vs University Graduate

Year	GCSE Leaver Path (Earn & Learn)		University Graduate Path	
Year 1	Level 2 Apprentice – Apprenticeship Levy/Co-funded	Earn ~£8,000/year of apprentice wage	A-Level Year 1	No income
Year 2	Level 3 Apprentice – Apprenticeship Levy/Co-funded	Earn ~£12,000/year of apprentice wage	A-Level Year 2	No income
Year 3	Level 5 Lead – Apprenticeship Levy/Co-funded	Earn ~£18,000/year of apprentice wage	University Year 1	Student Loan - £9,250 for tuition and £10,000 Maintenance Loan
Year 4	Level 5 Lead – Apprenticeship Levy/Co-funded + Top-up degree	Earn ~£18,000/year of apprentice wage / top-up degree Student Loan ~£20,000	University Year 2	Student Loan - £9,250 for tuition and £10,000 Maintenance Loan
Year 5	Top-up degree + EYITT	Earn ~£22,000/year after the degree	University Year 3	Student Loan - £9,250 for tuition and £10,000 Maintenance Loan
Year 6	EYTS + at least 4.5 yrs experience	Earn up to £38,000/year with EYTS	EYITT	Earn ~£20,000/year without experience
	Degree + EYTS + 4.5 yrs experience + Earn £80,000 ↑ - Loan ~£20,000		Degree + EYTS + 1 yr experience + Earn £20,000 - Loan ~£50,000	

*The average student loan debt is £46,150 in England and takes an average of 29 years and 4 months to pay off.*

*“Same destination. Smarter journey.”*



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# Support every step of the way

## Additional Learning Support



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# Supporting every learner to succeed

- **Tailored support** for every learner, whatever your needs.
- **Specialist SENCO guidance** and experienced tutors by your side.
- **Reasonable adjustments** to make assessments fair and accessible.
- **Proven success** helping learners with EHCPs and additional needs complete their apprenticeships.
- **Provide laptop** for learners that need them.

***"With the right support in place, there are no limits to what you can achieve."***

Amanda Marsden SENCO at BPN



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# Supporting every learner to succeed

***"I have dyslexia and my Best Practice Network tutor Emma took the time to find the best way to support me.***

***She was always honest with me and gave me constructive feedback on how I could improve my work. I graduated with a distinction and I couldn't have done it without the outstanding support I received."***

Caitlin Taaffe, Early Years Lead Practitioner graduate, now studying for her degree



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# Taster Session on Child Development



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# What you will learn

**By the end of this session, you should be able to:**

- Identify the main areas of learning and development
- Understand the difference between sequence and rate of development
- Understand how the brain develops
- Identify the difference between constructivist and co-constructivist theory



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# What is development?

Growth

- Height
- Weight
- Size
- Physical growth i.e. puberty

Progress

- Movement
- Speech
- Education
- Confidence and wellbeing

Change

- Appearance
- Friendships
- Perceptions
- Personality traits



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# What is the difference between the sequence and rate of development?



Sequence: The expected pattern of developmental milestones.

Rate: The pace which the child achieves these milestones.

Do you think the  
sequence of  
development will be the  
same for every child?

Do you think the rate of  
development will be the  
same for every child?



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Can you identify the  
main areas of learning  
and development?

# What is brain development?



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# Piaget's theory of cognitive development

**Sensorimotor stage (0-2 years)** Infants explore and learn about the world through their senses. Object permanence, the understanding that objects continue to exist even when out of sight, develops during this stage.



**Preoperational stage (2-7 years)** Children begin to use symbols (such as language and images) to represent objects. Their thinking is often egocentric, and they struggle with logical reasoning.

**Concrete operational stage (7-11)** Logical reasoning and the ability to perform mental operations on concrete objects and events improve. Conservation, the understanding that quantity remains the same despite changes in appearance, becomes more established.



**Formal operational stage (11+)** Abstract thinking and hypothetical reasoning develop. Individuals can think about possibilities, make predictions, and engage in deductive reasoning.



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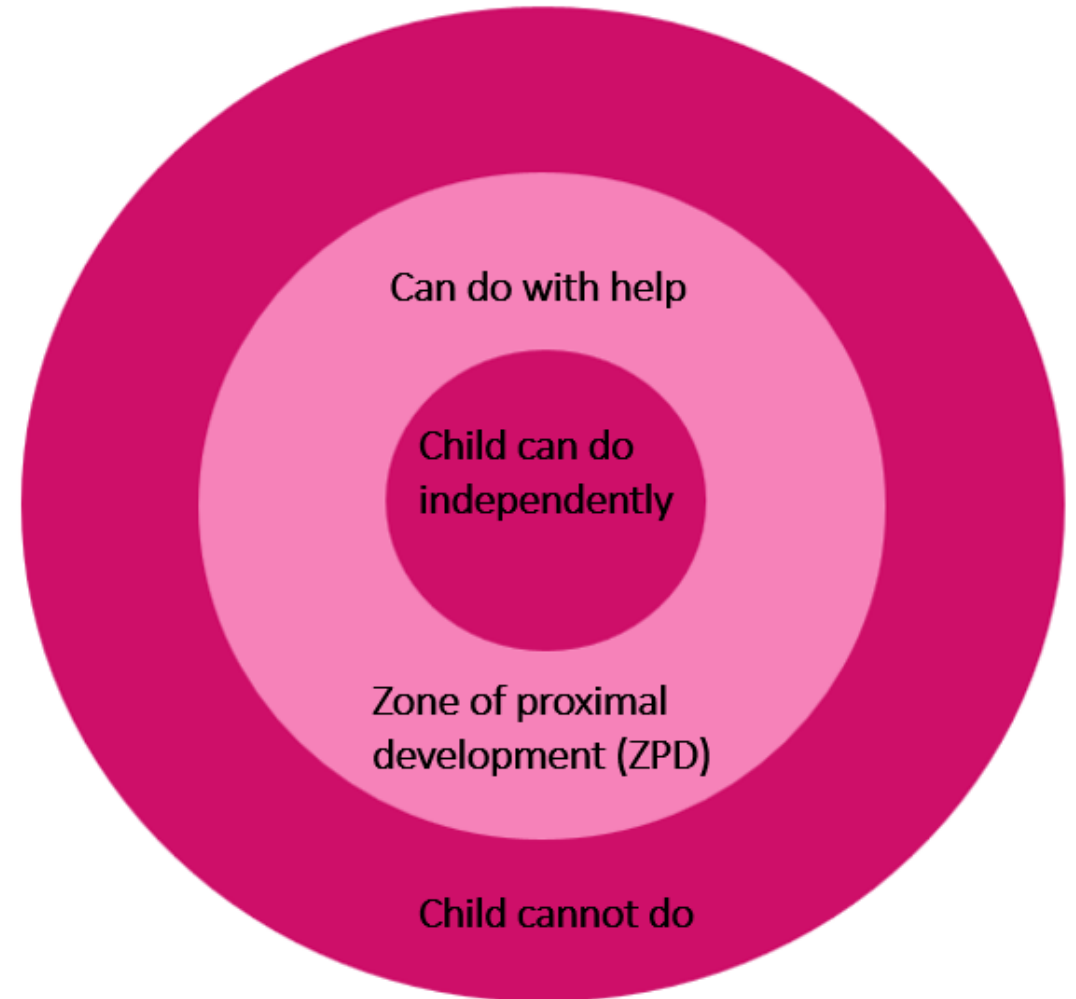
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# Vygotsky's sociocultural theory

## How would you scaffold learning?

- A child is struggling to put together pieces of a puzzle.
- A toddler is attempting to stack some blocks but keeps knocking them over
- A child is struggling to write their name

Can you give any examples of how you could scaffold learning in the examples?



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# Quiz time!



Can you name at least 2 areas of learning and development?

What happens when sensory information is uploaded to the brain?

*True or False*

*Co-construction of knowledge means that children work independently to learn*

*What does ZPD stand for?*



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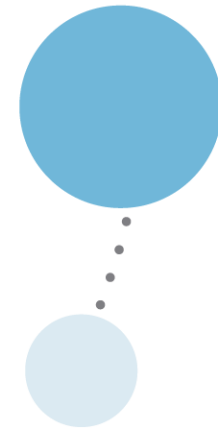


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## Q&A

Please feel free to put your questions in  
the chatbox now!





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**Scan to explore our Leavers to Leaders pathway.**  
Take your first step into a rewarding Early Years career.



We look forward to welcoming you into the next cohort — and celebrating your graduation soon!

[bestpracticenetwork.co.uk](https://bestpracticenetwork.co.uk)

Learn. Share. Grow.