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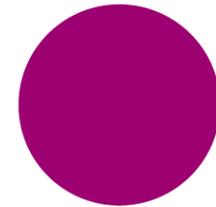
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Starting Your Early Years  
Career:  
Level 2 and Level 3  
Apprenticeships Explained



# Welcome!

This session is designed to give you an overview of our early years apprenticeships levels 2 and 3.

What do you hope to get out of this session?



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# What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a training programme that allows learners to earn while they learn, gain hands on experience and a recognised qualification - all with full tutor support.



# What is an apprenticeship made up of?



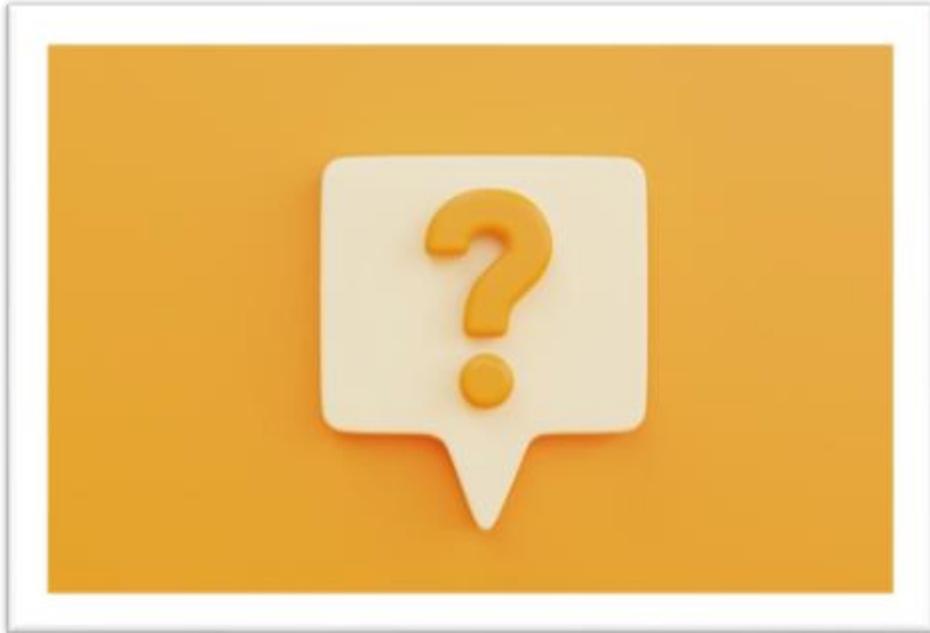
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# Benefits of our early years apprenticeships



- Earn while you learn – with no fees to pay
- Gain a nationally recognised qualification that meets EYFS requirements
- Learn by doing, with real-world experience in a childcare setting
- 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 apprenticeships – progression route

Early Years  
Practitioner level  
2 apprenticeship



Early Years  
Educator level 3  
apprenticeship



Early Years Lead  
Practitioner level  
5 apprenticeship



Top up degree in  
early years



Early Years  
Initial Teacher  
Training (EYITT)



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# Our Delivery Plan



Blended programme of face to face and online study



Progress reviews every 6 weeks



Specialist 1-2-1 Tutor Support



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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# EYP L2

- 12 month programme + 3 months EPA (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
- EPA methods: observation and a professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence



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# Early Years Educator L3



- 15 month programme + 3 months EPA (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 + end point assessment preparation – including safeguarding, H&S, child development, a unique child, enabling environments and teaching, learning & assessment
- End point assessment methods – observation and questioning, professional discussion and portfolio of evidence

# Employer requirements

Attend learner reviews

Allow time for apprentices to attend monthly webinars

Provide apprentice with off the job training

Provide your apprentice with a mentor

Provide regular support, feedback and guidance to the apprentice

Provide apprentices with opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills and behaviours



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# What is Off the Job Training?





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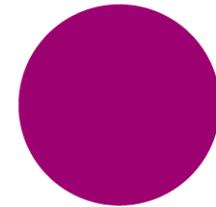
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# Early Years Apprenticeship Funding Options



# Funding

**Early Years Practitioner L2 -  
£5000**

**Early Years Educator L3 -  
£7000**

**Maximum employer  
contribution: £350**

## 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](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk)

## Enrol your employees

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

## £ 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.

**Additionally, for non-levy employers:** You will receive 100% of the funding where the apprentice is 16-21 years old or is between 22 and 24 years old and has an education, health and care plan. Employers will receive an additional £1000 where the apprentice is between 16 and 18 years old.



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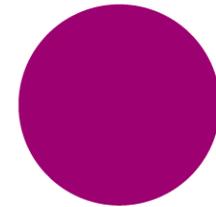
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# Apprenticeship Recruitment Service



# How does it work?

Our free Apprenticeship Recruitment Service is designed to make things simple for you. We connect early years settings with enthusiastic, motivated learners who are ready to start their careers — bringing fresh talent into the sector, while helping apprentices find a supportive environment where they can truly grow and thrive.





## How do we support settings?



If you need support with staffing, our dedicated recruitment team is here to help you find the right apprentice for your vacancy.

We can support you every step of the way:

- **Advertise** - We'll promote your vacancy on our website, relevant job boards, and the Find an Apprenticeship service to attract high-quality candidates.
- **Screening** - Our team conducts initial calls with all applicants to assess their eligibility and suitability for the apprenticeship programme.
- **Shortlisting** - We'll provide you with a carefully selected shortlist of candidates, along with notes to support your interview process.
- **Training** - Once you've chosen your preferred candidate(s), we'll enrol them onto the next intake of our apprenticeship programme and support them throughout their learning journey.

# How do we support apprentices?

- We conduct a screening call with every applicant to understand their experience, career goals, and the type of setting that would suit them best, while also confirming their eligibility for the apprenticeship.
- We then review our current vacancies and discuss suitable opportunities with them.
- If we don't have a suitable vacancy available, we provide guidance and support on how to approach local early years settings directly.  
Where there is a strong match, we share the candidate's CV with relevant settings to help facilitate the next steps.



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# How do we support apprentices? (cont.)

- Matched candidates are offered an interview opportunity with the setting, which may include a stay-and-play or work trial to help both the employer and candidate decide if it's the right fit.
- If a placement is not offered, we continue supporting the candidate in their employer search and provide helpful feedback to support their development.

## Get in touch!

[recruitment@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk)

Or scan the QR code – and we'll be in touch



Scan to find out more!



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## Next steps

### How do I apply?

Applications can be made through  
our website:

[https://www.bestpracticenet.co.uk/  
early-years](https://www.bestpracticenet.co.uk/early-years)

Any  
questions?

