



Best  
Practice  
Network

Funded by



Department  
for Education



Apprenticeships

# Boost Your Ratios with Funded Training Programmes

Prepare your setting for the increase in funded childcare.



“ Not only do  
our programmes  
improve the quality of  
education and care  
in your setting, but  
they also boost your  
staff:child ratios!



Sian Marsh  
Early Years Director

Learn. Share. Grow.



## Best Practice Network

Rated "an Exceptional Training Provider" by the DfE



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The government's funded childcare extension brings exciting opportunities for your early years setting. But with increased demand comes the challenge of maintaining exceptional care delivered by your setting.

**Best Practice Network is here to help you meet the challenge.**

This brochure details our funded Early Years training programmes, designed to upskill your team and optimise staff:child ratios. We'll equip your staff with the tools needed to thrive under extended childcare hours, ensuring high-quality care for all children.

Inside, discover how we can help you:

- Maximise your staff:child ratios to cater for more children
- Upskill your team with funded training programmes
- Maintain quality care through expert-led training

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

Sian Marsh  
Early Years Director  
Best Practice Network

## Get in touch

0117 920 9428  
enquiries@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk  
bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/ratios



## How can your setting care for more children without compromising on quality?

Little Daisies Nursery\* is a great example. They boosted their capacity by over 75% - from 40 to 71 children by upskilling their staff and utilising apprenticeships with Best Practice Network.

At BPN we offer a wide range of courses to boost your staff:child ratios and equip your practitioners with the skills and qualifications they need to thrive.

## How did they boost their capacity by over 75%?

- ✓ Identified staff who wanted to progress their career and could benefit from training
- ✓ Supported their staff to apply for EYITT and Level 3 Apprenticeships with BPN
- ✓ Hired two new apprentices through the BPN free recruitment services
- ✓ Utilised Apprenticeship Levy and DfE funding to pay for the training

### Before training

**Total Staff: 9**

- 3 qualified at Level 3
- 4 qualified at Level 2
- 2 Unqualified

**Total Children: 40**

**Baby room** - 3 staff : 9 babies  
**2 year old room** - 3 staff : 15 toddlers  
**3-4 year old room** - 2 staff : 16 children

### After training with BPN

**Total Staff: 11**

- 1 EYTS qualified
- 6 qualified at Level 3
- 3 qualified at Level 2
- 1 Unqualified

**Total Children: 71**

**Baby room** - 4 staff : 12 babies  
**2 year old room** - 4 staff : 20 toddlers  
**3-4 year old room** - 3 staff : 39 children

## Ratios in simple terms



**Age 0-2**  
staff:child ratio  
**1:3**



**Age 2**  
staff:child ratio  
**1:5**

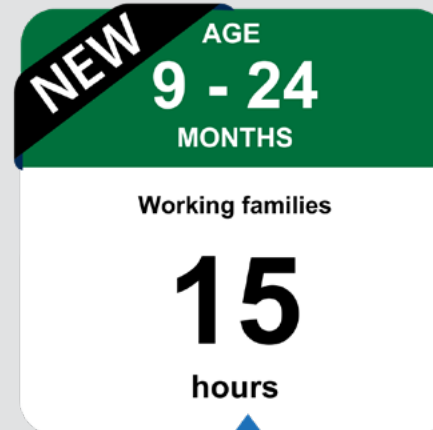
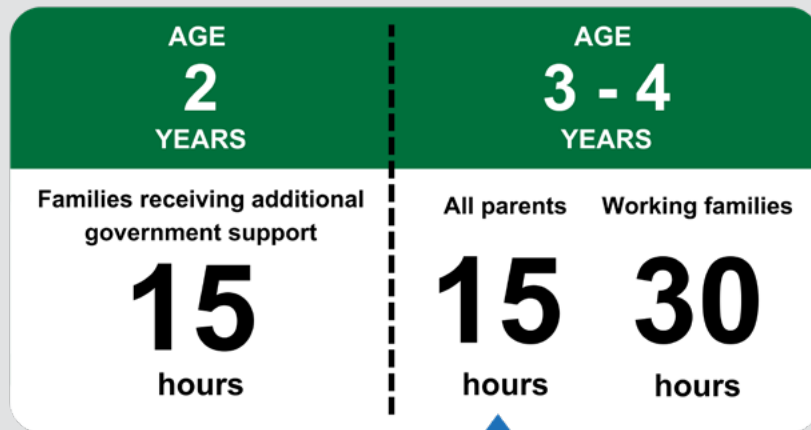


**Age 3-4**  
staff:child ratio  
**1:13** with EYTS  
**1:8** without EYTS

Little Daisies Nursery serves as a prime example of how training and hiring apprentices can increase your ratios

# Prepare your setting for the

# increase in funded childcare



Best Practice Network offers several funded programmes which will help you get prepared for the extended funded childcare hours and increase your setting's staff:child ratios, including:

- **Early Years Practitioner Level 2 (L2):** At least 50% of nursery staff are required to have a L2
- **Early Years Educator Level 3 (L3):** From the start of the training, they count as a L2, contributing to the required 50%. Once achieved, L3 practitioners count towards the staff:child ratios
- **Early Years Lead Practitioner Level 5 (L5):** If an apprentice has completed their full and relevant L3 qualification before beginning the programme, they will count as a L3 towards the ratios while training and after completion
- **Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT):** From the start of the training, trainees count as L3 in ratios. Once EYTS is achieved, they count at 1:13 for 3-4 years old

With workplace training programmes for all levels of practitioners, scan the QR code to find the perfect solution for your setting and be ready for the increased childcare hours!



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Apprenticeships



"I was looked after every step of the way by Best Practice. The tutor visits were the standout point of the course. I can't wait to do the L3 course in the future and keep working my way up."

## Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship Level 2

This apprenticeship is a funded entry-level training programme.

Early Years Practitioners work under the guidance and supervision of an early years educator, teacher or other suitably qualified professional in the early years workforce supporting the planning and delivery of the educational programmes for children in the 0-5 age range.

### Benefits

- ✓ Learn how to support children's early education and development
- ✓ Become more confident in planning activities in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- ✓ Learn how to keep up-to-date records to help track and identify children's individual needs, abilities and progress
- ✓ Promote health, safety and child welfare through effective, informed practice and safeguarding
- ✓ Study at no cost to the learner. Funded by the Apprenticeship Levy or with a 5% employer co-investment of £200
- ✓ Receive full support from your apprenticeship tutor with monthly visits and taught sessions

### Programme Structure



Learn more and apply at [bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/EYP](https://bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/EYP)

### 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:

- Level 1 in maths and English (can be completed during the apprenticeship)
- Support from your employer and levy account holder
- Residency in the UK for the last three years

### Upcoming deadlines

The programme starts every other month. Visit our website to check future intakes.

**We can help you recruit apprentices!**  
**Contact us for details.**



### AT A GLANCE

- Up to 100% funded**
- Blended Training**
- This Course Awards**  
Early Years Practitioner Level 2, NQual Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner
- Course Duration**  
Up to 15 months
- Ratios**  
50% of your nursery staff are required to hold a Level 2 qualification



**Michelle Evans**  
Apprenticeship  
Performance Manager

Michelle has been working in early years since 2011 and joined Best Practice Network in 2021. She has been able to use her vast experience in the sector to support apprentices.

*"The level 2 will equip early years practitioners with skills they need to succeed."*







"The way the course was delivered was great. The tutor who was assigned to me supported my development and progression every step of the way and I can't thank her enough!"

## Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Level 3

This apprenticeship is a funded mid-tier level training programme.

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.

### Benefits

- ✓ Learn how to support and promote children's early education and development
- ✓ Plan and provide effective care and learning to prepare children for school
- ✓ Learn how to use assessment to develop informed practice for individual children
- ✓ Study at no cost to the learner. Funded by the Apprenticeship Levy or with a 5% employer co-investment of £350
- ✓ Counts towards EYFS Level 3 staff:child ratios

### Programme Structure



### Who is it for?

- Suitable for either someone already working in, or someone looking for a career in an early years childcare setting
- Ideal for someone looking to pursue a career as an early years educator, nursery teaching assistant, nursery nurse, supervisor, or childminder

### 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 programme
- Award in Paediatric First Aid OR Emergency Paediatric First Aid must be achieved while on programme (if not already achieved) and must be in date when they enter gateway
- Support from your employer and levy account holder
- Residency in the UK for the last three years

### Upcoming deadlines

Monthly starts.  
Visit our website for future intakes.

We can help you  
recruit apprentices!  
Contact us for details.



### AT A GLANCE



**Up to 100% funded**

**Blended Training**



**This Course Awards**  
Early Years Educator Level 3



**Course Duration**  
Up to 18 months



**Ratios**  
Count towards 50% of qualified staff when on training. Once L3 Qualification achieved, they count towards staff:child ratios



**Tracy Clement**  
Apprenticeship Director

Tracy is passionate about apprenticeships and the opportunities they bring for new and existing staff to gain knowledge and skills in the workplace.



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



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## Early Years Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship Level 5

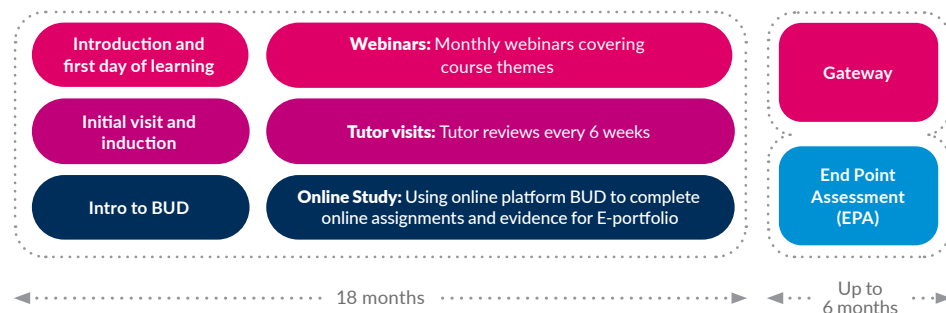
This apprenticeship is a funded training programme for experienced practitioners caring for children from birth to 8 years.

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

### Benefits

- ✓ Be responsible for supporting the quality of learning and development in your setting
- ✓ Learn how to lead day-to-day practice at an operational level
- ✓ Be involved with sector developments in your local area and nationally
- ✓ Work in partnership with parents, carers and colleagues for each child's development
- ✓ Study at no cost to the learner. Funded by the Apprenticeship Levy or with a 5% employer co-investment of £400

### Programme Structure



### Who is it for?

- Suitable for someone already working in, or aspiring to work in early years childcare, with responsibility for leading other practitioners or groups
- 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
- GCSEs in English and maths at Grade C (4) or above, or able to achieve level 2 English and maths whilst on programme
- Support from your employer and levy account holder
- Residency in the UK for the last three years

### Upcoming deadlines

Monthly starts.  
Visit our website for future intakes.

### AT A GLANCE



Up to 100% funded



Online Training



This Course Awards

Early Years Lead Practitioner Level 5



Course Duration

Up to 24 months



Ratios

Count towards staff:child ratios at Level 3



Sarah Bishop  
Apprenticeship  
Performance Manager

Sarah has 8 years of experience working within the childcare sector focussing on early years and 4 years as an Apprenticeship Trainer.

*"The Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner focusses on advancing practice, taking early years educators to the next level in their leadership, knowledge, skills and behaviours."*

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





"I wanted to deepen my understanding of child development and make a positive and lasting impact on the children's education experience."

## Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT)

The only teacher training focused on babies and children from birth to five.

EYITT leads to Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) through a blend of comprehensive training days, hands-on placements and self-paced learning. It is designed for graduate early years practitioners who wish to care for children up to 5 and specialise in early childhood development.

### Benefits

- ✓ Become a qualified Early Years Teacher and lead practice of others
- ✓ Help close the attainment gap and improve children's life chances
- ✓ Access the latest research and teaching resources
- ✓ EYITT trainees count towards staff:child ratio for children age 3 and over
- ✓ Receive an employer bonus of £7,000 to cover training-related costs
- ✓ Train for free - the programme is fully funded by the DfE

### Programme Structure



### Who is it for?

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

### 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 a candidate do not have the required GCSEs, then we can advise on completing an equivalency test instead.

### Upcoming deadlines

The next programme intake starts in September. Visit our website for the application deadline.

### AT A GLANCE



**Fully funded by the DfE**



**Online or Blended Training**

And Setting Placements



**This Course Awards**

Early Years Teaching Status (EYTS)



**Course Duration**

Up to 12 months

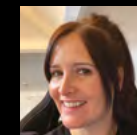
**Training Days**

8 days



**Ratios**

Trainees count towards staff:child ratios at Level 3 from the start of their training; once they achieve EYTS, it's 1:13 for 3-4 year olds



**Helen Royston**  
EYITT Programme Lead

Helen has specialised in early years for nearly two decades. She worked as an Early Years Teacher across a wide range of provision, including schools and children's centres. Currently, she uses her expertise to inspire Early Years Teachers of the future.

Learn more and apply at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYITT](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYITT)

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"We are thrilled to be offering this new employer requested programme that is easily accessible for a variety of settings."

Tracy Clement  
Apprenticeship Director

## Playworker Apprenticeship Level 2

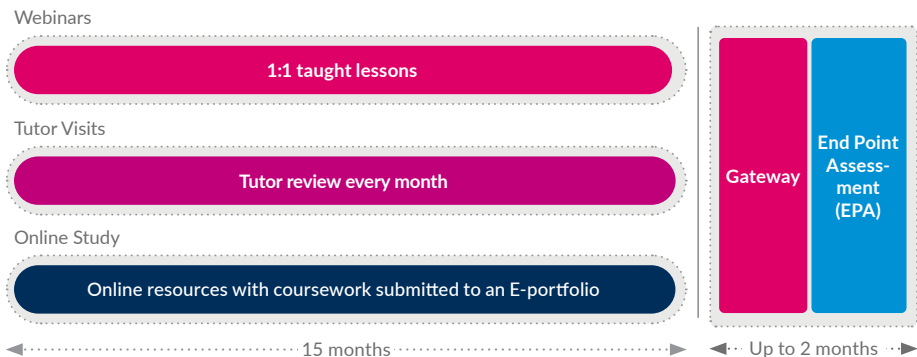
An apprenticeship for playworkers in wraparound care such as breakfast and after-school clubs, holiday clubs and play sessions in leisure centres.

This programme is aimed at playworkers who work in a range of play settings offering different models of playwork. The purpose of our curriculum is to support playworkers to develop into positive, flexible and team-focused members of staff, and to support them to provide the best possible provision for the children in their care.

### Benefits

- ✓ No previous qualifications needed
- ✓ Provide excellent care and education to children at your setting
- ✓ 10 key modules with extra specialised units
- ✓ Offer an accredited CPD option for employees to progress

### Programme Structure



Learn more and apply at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/playworker](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/playworker)

### Who is it for?

Ideal for playworkers who work with children in a range of private, voluntary and independent settings, including:

- Breakfast and after-school clubs
- Holiday clubs
- Adventure playgrounds
- Mobile play provisions
- Sports and leisure facilities
- Play sessions in women's refuges, hospitals and prisons
- Woodland and park outdoor sessions

### Entry requirements

- There are no previous qualifications needed for this course and no age restrictions
- UK residency for 3+ years
- Employed in a relevant setting
- Funding agreed with the apprenticeship account holder

### Upcoming deadlines

Five intakes a year. Visit our website for future intakes.

We can help you  
recruit apprentices!  
Contact us for details.



### AT A GLANCE



Up to 100% funded



Blended Training



This Course Awards

Playworker Level 2



Course Duration

15 months



Emma Reading  
Apprenticeship  
Curriculum Manager

Emma has worked in schools, early years and play settings since 2008 and has experience as a teacher, playworker and in various nursery management roles. She has worked in apprenticeships for almost 8 years - as an apprenticeship tutor and in curriculum for almost 2 years.





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Apprenticeships

## How to Apply

### STEP 1

Visit our early years page at  
[bestpracticenet.co.uk/ey](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/ey)

### STEP 2

Select the webpage for the programme  
you would like to complete.

### STEP 3

Click **Apply Now** to sign up!  
You will need to setup an account  
if you don't already have one.

### STEP 4

It takes about 20 minutes to apply for  
most of our courses. Our friendly team  
is available to help you.

### STEP 5

If you are applying for an apprenticeship  
our early years team will assist with  
accessing funding.

# We can help with recruitment!

Let us match an applicant  
for your position.

Contact us if you  
have a vacancy.



Our Early  
Years Advisors  
are here  
to help!

## Learn more

0117 920 9428

[enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk)

[bestpracticenet.co.uk/ratios](https://bestpracticenet.co.uk/ratios)

All information is correct at the  
time of print. For most up-to-date  
information, visit our website.