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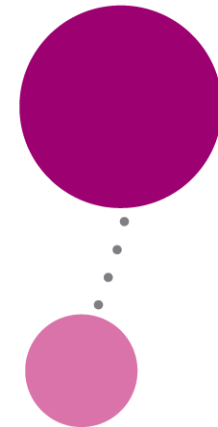


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Discover Your Future with the Early Years Lead Practitioner Level 5 Apprenticeship

*Explore careers, qualifications and progression
opportunities in Early Years*



What You'll Discover Today

Today's session will help you understand:

- ✓ What an Early Years Lead Practitioner does
- ✓ How the Level 5 apprenticeship supports leadership development
- ✓ Career progression opportunities in Early Years
- ✓ Progression towards degree study and EYITT
- ✓ The support available throughout your learning journey

What do you hope to get out of this session?



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What does an Early Years Lead Practitioner do?

- Lead high quality practice
- Support quality improvement across the setting
- Support and mentor colleagues
- Drive improvements across the setting
- Work with families and external professionals
- Support curriculum and learning development
- Help shape the future direction of the setting



Why do practitioners choose Level 5?

- Prepare for leadership roles
- Gain a qualification equivalent to a foundation degree
- Build confidence leading others
- Develop specialist knowledge
- Progress towards degree study and EYITT



Level 3 vs Level 5: What's the Difference?

Level 3 Educator	Level 5 Lead Practitioner
Delivers practice	Leads practice
Supports children	Supports children and colleagues
Focuses on own key children	Influences practice across the setting
Develops own skills	Develops the skills of others



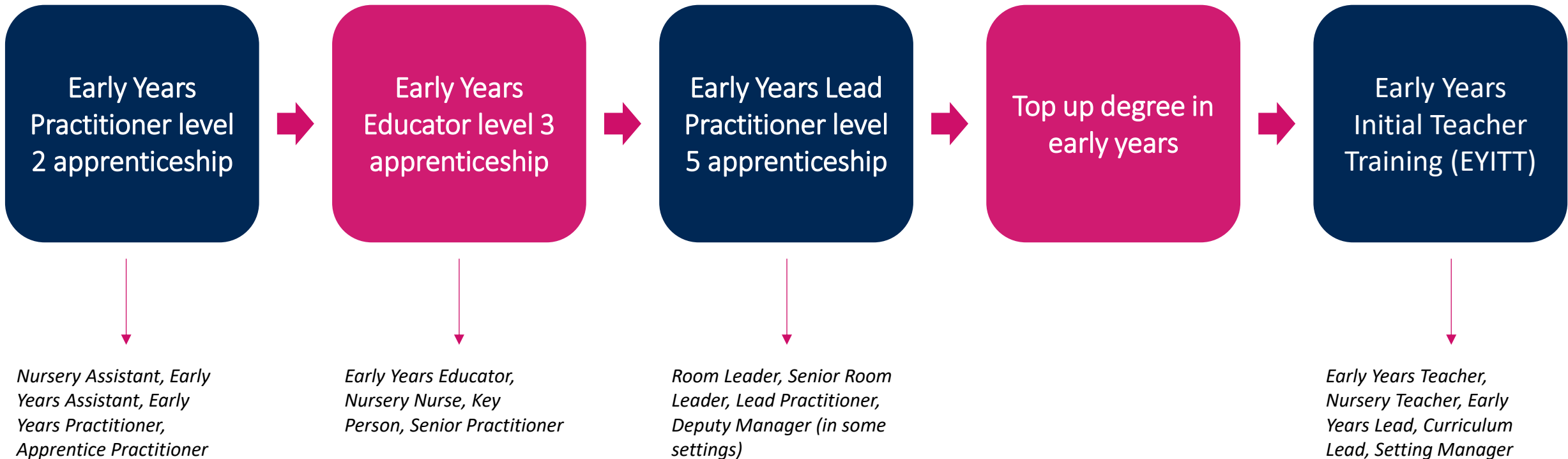
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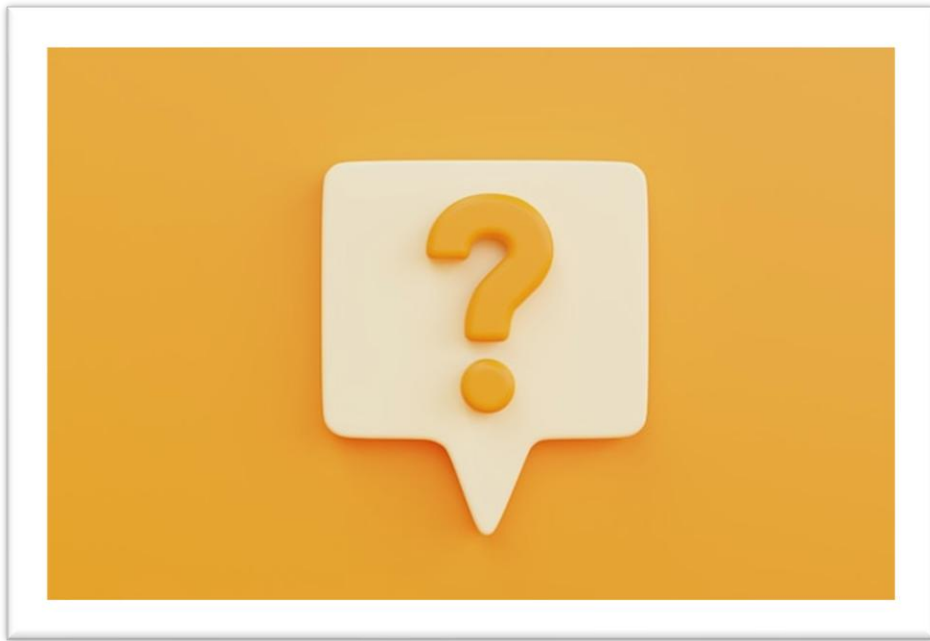
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Could this be your future?



The Level 5 apprenticeship is often the bridge between being an experienced practitioner and becoming a leader within your setting.

What are the benefits of the apprenticeship?



- Support development of lead practitioners through specific early years focused leadership training
- Supports development of knowledge skills and behaviours to excel in the role
- Offers a route into higher education whilst working and gaining practical experience
- Develop confidence, communication skills and supports wider learning
- Opportunity to gain a fully funded qualification (levy funded)



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EYLP L5 programme structure

- 18 month programme + 3 months apprenticeship assessment
- Designed for those in a leadership role in an EY setting
- Functional skills maths and English L2 (mandatory for 16-18 year old apprentices)
- Delivered in cohorts
- 16 virtual classroom sessions
- Fully recognised qualification in line with the EYFS



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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

Our modules

Study skills and reflective practice

Inclusion, ethics and rights based approaches

A unique child

Child development

Legislation, policy and practice

Curriculum intent, implementation and impact

Theories of learning

Pedagogy in practice

Exciting and enabling environments

Effective development of health and wellbeing

Leadership practice – theories and concepts

Partnerships and multi agency work

Boundaries and safety of information

Preparation for apprenticeship assessment and revision (3 classes)



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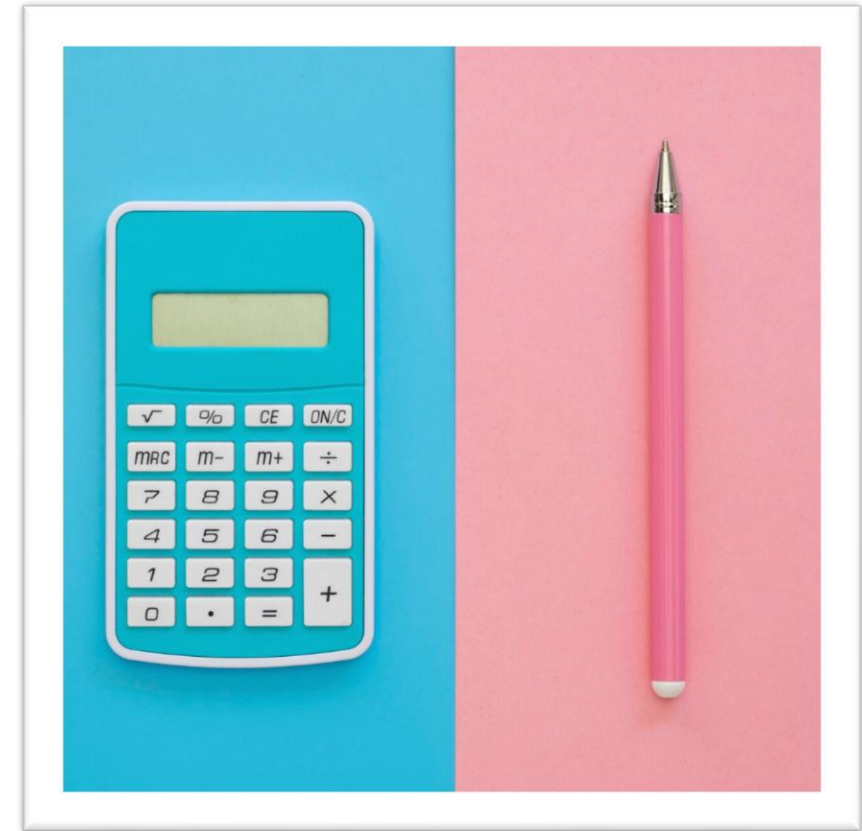
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Functional skills

- 16-18 year old apprentices must complete functional skills if they have not already achieved these at a grade 4 GCSE or equivalent
- 19+ apprentices can choose to opt in to functional skills. These learners now only need to attempt the exam – do not need to pass.
- We would recommend learners work towards functional skills to support in meeting the EYFS requirements (this is the decision of the employer and learner).
- Lots of support available – maths and English is embedded into the programme with elearning packages, contextualised task sheets, BKSB and tutor virtual classrooms.



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Apprenticeship Assessment

Assessment method 1: Observation and questioning

Assessment method 2: Professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence (portfolio to include a case study).



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Workload and time commitments

- Removal of the case study from the assessment methods for EPA (changed Aug 2025) means less pressure on apprentices and less of a requirement for written tasks.
- A case study still needs to be submitted within the portfolio however less specific requirements for the structure and word count.
- We can adapt to meet the individual learning needs of apprentices – work can be completed as written assignments, professional discussion, etc.



How Your Employer Will Support You

Attend learner reviews

Allow time for apprentices to attend monthly virtual classrooms

Provide apprentice with 466 off the job training hours across the programme

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 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.

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

Support from your employer OR support finding an employer.

UK residency for 3+ years.



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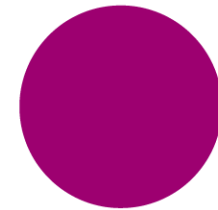
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Apprenticeship Recruitment Service



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 apprentices?

- Pre-screening- to understand their experience, career goals, and the type of setting that would suit them best, while also confirming their eligibility for the apprenticeship.
- Match to current vacancies and discuss suitability.
- If we don't have a suitable vacancy available, we provide guidance and support on how to approach local early years settings directly.
- Proactive vacancy search - distribute strong CVs to local employers.



How do we support apprentices? (cont.)

- Matched candidates are offered an interview/work trial with the setting. Will 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

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?

