



Early years educator

Key information

Reference: ST0135

Version: 1.3

Level: 3

Typical duration to gateway: 18 months

Typical EPA period: 3 months

Maximum funding: £7000

Route: Education and early years

Date updated: 02/04/2024

Approved for delivery: 3 April 2019

Lars code: 430

EQA provider: Ofqual

Review: this apprenticeship will be reviewed in accordance with our change request policy.

Apprenticeship summary

Overview of the role

Highly trained professionals who play a key role in ensuring that young children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

Occupation summary

This occupation is found in a range of maintained and private, voluntary, and independent settings such as full day care, children's centres, pre-schools, reception classes, playgroups, nursery schools, home based provision, hospitals, social care settings, out of school environments, and local authority provision.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to provide high quality early education and care to children. Through an evidence based approach, they provide opportunities and learning experiences for all children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Early years educators follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements set by government for the learning, development, and care of children from birth to 5 in both indoor and outdoor environments.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with children, parents, carers, colleagues, and wider multi agency professionals such as health visitors, early help services, social workers, and speech and language therapists. This includes supporting children with SEND.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for ensuring a safe and secure environment for children's learning. They ensure that the learning environment and provision is inclusive and supports all children, and demonstrate a clear understanding of equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Early years educators teach and facilitate children's learning play. They apply the observation, assessment, and planning cycle to support progress and children's development. An early years educator will act as the key person for one or more children within their setting. They may play a leadership role within the setting or may act under the supervision of a manager.

Typical job titles include:

Childminder assistant

Early years educator

Early years worker

Nursery educator

Nursery nurse

Nursery worker

Duties

Duty 1 Support children's learning and development through applying knowledge of pedagogy and the observation, assessment, and planning cycle.

Duty 2 Develop secure and supportive relationships with children and families as the key person for children in their care, advocating for those children.

Duty 3 Provide respectful and responsive physical and emotional care to children, promoting health and wellbeing.

Duty 4 Work with key individuals in children's lives (for example parents, families, and carers) to improve all children's outcomes and wellbeing.

Duty 5 Work in partnership with other organisations and agencies to support children's learning, development, health and wellbeing.

Duty 6 Support the implementation of change to improve practice.

Duty 7 Initiate and engage in continuous professional development, underpinned by reflective practice.

Duty 8 Ensure compliance with child protection and safeguarding legislation, policies, and procedures.

Duty 9 Work in ways that promote and support equality, diversity, and the inclusion of all children, respecting their social and cultural context.

Duty 10 Ensure compliance with Health and Safety legislation, policies, and procedures.

Duty 11 Use technology to record and update information for example observations, assessments, reports, risk assessments, and safeguarding concerns.

Duty 12 Promote and engage in children's play. Support all children to create and adapt the environment to reflect their interests and enable their learning and development.

Duty 13 Ensure legal requirements of statutory frameworks are met within policy, procedure, and practice.

Apprenticeship summary

ST0135, early years educator level 3

This is a summary of the key things that you – the apprentice and your employer need to know about your end-point assessment (EPA). You and your employer should read the EPA plan for the

full details. It has information on assessment method requirements, roles and responsibilities, and re-sits and re-takes.

What is an end-point assessment and why it happens

An EPA is an assessment at the end of your apprenticeship. It will assess you against the knowledge, skills, and behaviours (KSBs) in the occupational standard. Your training will cover the KSBs. The EPA is your opportunity to show an independent assessor how well you can carry out the occupation you have been trained for.

Your employer will choose an end-point assessment organisation (EPAO) to deliver the EPA. Your employer and training provider should tell you what to expect and how to prepare for your EPA.

The length of the training for this apprenticeship is typically 18 months. The EPA period is typically 3 months.

The overall grades available for this apprenticeship are:

- fail
- pass
- merit
- distinction

When you pass the EPA, you will be awarded your apprenticeship certificate.

EPA gateway

The EPA gateway is when the EPAO checks and confirms that you have met any requirements required before you start the EPA. You will only enter the gateway when your employer says you are ready.

The gateway requirements for your EPA are:

- achieved English and mathematics qualifications in line with the apprenticeship funding rules
- for the professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence, you must submit a portfolio of evidence
- passed any other qualifications listed in the occupational standard

For the early years educator, the qualification required is:

Paediatric First Aid or Emergency Paediatric First Aid

Assessment methods

Observation with questions

You will be observed by an independent assessor completing your work. It will last at least 1 hour 20 minutes. They will ask you at least 5 questions.

Professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence

You will have a professional discussion with an independent assessor. It will last 90 minutes. They will ask you at least 10 questions. The questions will be about certain aspects of your occupation. You need to compile a portfolio of evidence before the EPA gateway. You can use it to help answer the questions.

The EPAO will confirm where and when each assessment method will take place.

Who to contact for help or more information

You should speak to your employer if you have a query that relates to your job.

You should speak to your training provider if you have any questions about your training or EPA before it starts.

You should receive detailed information and support from the EPAO before the EPA starts. You should speak to them if you have any questions about your EPA once it has started.

Reasonable adjustments

If you have a disability, a physical or mental health condition or other special considerations, you may be able to have a reasonable adjustment that takes this into account. You should speak to your employer, training provider and EPAO and ask them what support you can get. The EPAO will decide if an adjustment is appropriate.

Professional recognition

This apprenticeship aligns with Department for Education for Full and relevant at Level 3

Please contact the professional body for more details.

Version log

Version	Change detail	Earliest start date	Latest start date
1.3	Occupational standard, end-point assessment plan and funding band revised.	01/04/2024	Not set
1.2	Standard revised. Missing KSBs added to standard to align with EPA wording (14/12/20).	28/05/2020	31/03/2024
1.1	End-point assessment plan revised	10/04/2019	27/05/2020
1.0	Retired	03/04/2019	09/04/2019

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