

APPRENTICESHIP CASE STUDY

How can an
Apprenticeship with
Puffins support my
long-term career
prospects?



By Chelsea Brown

Nursery Manager at Puffins Sowton

“Throughout your time at school you always get asked the questions; “what do you want to do when you leave school?” and “what qualifications do you need for your career?”. I always dreaded these questions as I never knew the answer. I started off at post 16 and come the end of that journey I was still pondering on the question “what do I want to do?”.

I found out about Apprenticeships online and saw one advertised for Puffins Childcare. Knowing people that worked there and that they all spoke highly of Puffins, I decided to look into it further. I hated sitting at a desk, so the idea of learning on the job massively appealed to me.

I was a shy girl who lacked confidence, I would happily let others talk while I faded into the background. Joining Puffins as an apprentice at the age of 17 was by far the best thing for me and 8 years later I am still here with a passion for what I do and a career, yes a career...I can finally answer that dreaded school question!

My journey as an Apprentice at Puffins has allowed me to work in the nursery and train along the way. I’ve met so many lovely people along the way who have helped me massively to get where I am today and achieve my goals. I would never have learnt as much as I have sat at a desk!

I had a great mentor and role model at Puffins. This person helped me feel at ease when I started and has supported me through all of the stages of my Apprenticeship. Within my Apprenticeship I wasn’t just learning about how children learn and develop; I was also learning about myself and this has led me into learning lots of new skills and completing management qualifications. Puffins have got their own training centre full of kind; knowledgeable, caring people who are so supportive and will encourage you to exceed in your career.

I started my journey as a young 17 year old and I have progressed into a management role with a passion for what I do and a drive to help young people on their own journey. To anybody who is thinking about an Apprenticeship with Puffins....take the step! It can lead to so many career opportunities. And Puffins will always be there to support you along the way.”