

What is it like to  
do an  
Apprenticeship  
with Puffins?

# APPRENTICESHIP CASE STUDY

## By Eve Howell

### Level 2 Early Years Practitioner Apprentice

"I started my Apprenticeship in June 2020 and I wanted to take this opportunity to share my Puffins Apprenticeship experience with you to give you an insight into what it will be like to join the Puffins team.

Firstly, I feel strongly that studying towards an Apprenticeship with Puffins is a great way to start your career path into childcare. There are so many amazing opportunities to undertake during your Apprenticeship, ranging from attending 'day release' sessions to being in the nursery with all of the inspiring children and amazing staff.



As an early years Apprentice, my role is to make sure that every child has the best quality care possible by giving all children a fun and enjoyable experience at nursery. This includes helping them grow, learn and it makes the transition to primary school that a little bit easier for them.

Across all 5 of Puffins nurseries, we have a huge range of children, starting from ages 3 months to 5 years of age. These nurseries are all in Exeter which means you can access an Apprenticeship from pretty much anywhere across Exeter and surrounding areas. Having so many nurseries provides the opportunity for so many Apprentices to be able to start learning straight away and begin enjoying being around so many bundles of joy from your very first day.

Whilst being an apprentice, you will have to attend a session once a week called 'day release'. This day once a week is where most of your training will be held by one of our lovely assessors, Heather and Tracy. During these sessions you will gain so much knowledge that you will be able to put into practice in the workplace very smoothly. You will learn all things such as health and safety, first aid, behaviour management, safeguarding, caring for children, manual handling and so many more different topics that will help you to become the best practitioner you can be. They even run courses to help you to develop as a person such as budgeting and finance and sessions to help you understand and manage your own wellbeing and mental health.

The thing everybody usually looks forward to, is coming into the nursery and being able to have fun and look after all the children while they spend the day in our setting. During the days when you are in the setting, you will be able to do many activities (such as painting, den building, role play or going on trips with the children (as well as the occasional bit of cleaning and tidying)). All of the activities you do with the children, you will be helping the day to run smoothly and contributing to the children's enjoyment and supporting them to grow into confidence and capable young people.

My experience with Puffins has been great so far. I have learnt so much already about all of the children and the staff. The staff are so friendly and welcoming to everybody who joins our team, and all the children are absolutely fascinated when the new Apprentice start so you will be able to fit right in. You will definitely have a smile on your face all day as you become a big part in every child's world.

Childcare is a very rewarding career to be in and in my experience so far, it has brought a lot of motivation, passion, positivity and reward.

I hope this has been an interesting read and has helped you to have a better understanding of why you should consider an Apprenticeship with Puffins."