

Early Years Education & Childcare Training Providers List Academic Year 2024-2025

You can start your career in childcare at any age; apprenticeships, college courses and qualifications are delivered in a variety of ways and are open to anyone who is passionate about making a difference in children's lives.

The Department for Education has begun reforming qualifications at Level 3 and below to simplify the post 16 qualification landscape. Options following the completion of GCSE's are to remain in full time education and choose from A-Levels, T-Levels or Vocational Technical Qualifications or secure an Apprenticeship and build a career working with children. For further information the [National Careers Service](#) can guide you through the options.

Post 19 qualifications are also available which include Apprenticeships and Vocational Qualifications, the route you take may depend upon previous qualifications and experience, your role within the sector and funding requirements, but that is the beauty of working in Childcare – it allows you the flexibility to build a sustainable career and progress at your own rate.

Below is a list of Training Providers who deliver Early Years Qualifications within the Leicestershire Area. Some providers are physically based within the county, others have a head office and offer qualifications and training within our Local Authority.

The delivery methods do vary per provider, and could include face to face delivery, online learning and practical assessments. For best practice and quality learning, learners should attend classroom style learning, this could be virtual and therefore the location of the training provider is not an issue, or face to face, where travel to and from the venue needs to be considered.

Where training is only delivered on a 1:1 basis between the tutor and the learner; the depth and breadth of discussion, learning opportunities and the quality of the learning experience is narrowed in comparison to classroom learning alongside peers. Therefore consideration needs to be made to ensure that support and networking opportunities are available for the individual to enhance the learning experience.

When choosing a training provider please ensure the tutor/trainer/assessor delivering the learning of the qualification is qualified to at least a level higher to the level of the qualification they are delivering. It is important that the tutor/trainer/assessor has recent and relevant experience of the sector along with a higher level full and relevant qualification. E.g. the tutor/trainer/assessor delivering a Level 3 Apprenticeship Standard qualification should hold at least a Level 4 qualification recognised in the sector, have experience working in the sector and



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remain current through regular and meaningful Continuous Professional Development (CPD) activities.

Please review the options – the information is correct at time of publish and is reviewed / updated as required. These providers are actively engaged with the Workforce Improvement Team and update their qualifications with us as they develop. If you are aware of a provider – or are a provider offering within Leicestershire, please contact Victoria Cockram or Laura Upton to provide further information: Victoria.Cockram@leics.gov.uk or Laura.Upton@leics.gov.uk

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Best Practice Network

Head office is based at: Best Practice Network, Newminster House, 27-29 Baldwin St, Bristol, BS1 1LT

Courses Available:

For up-to-date course information and to apply: www.bestpracticenet.co.uk

NPQ in Early Years Leadership

Early Years Initial Teacher Training

Early Years SENCO Level 3

Apprenticeships:

Online resources with coursework submitted to an e-portfolio. This includes 1:1 taught lessons and Tutor reviews/visits every 2 months

Playworker Level 2 Apprenticeship

Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship Level 2 (EYP)

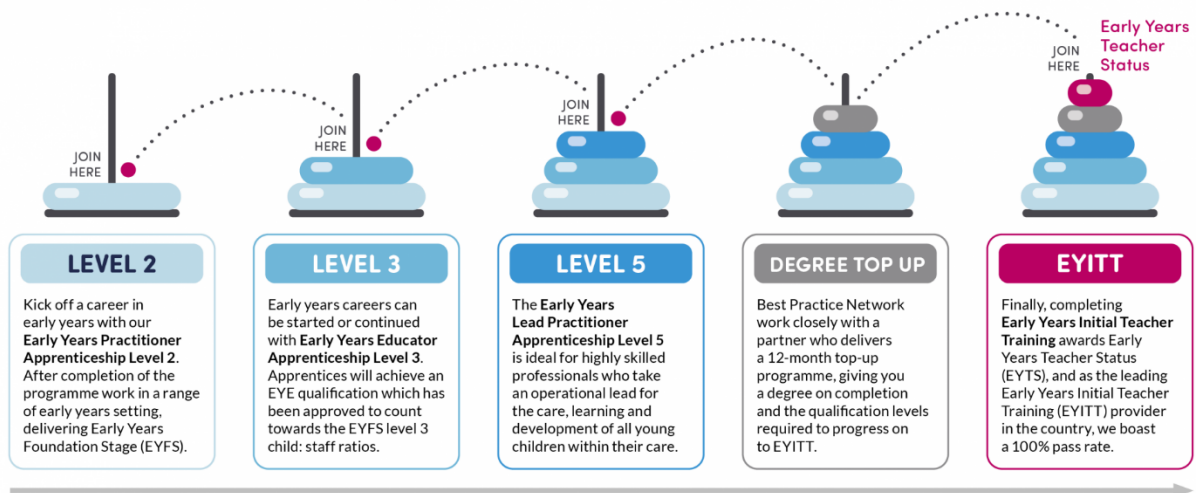
Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Level 3 (EYE)

Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship

For more information or to have an informal discussion please contact:

Jay Hicks (Business Development Executive) JayHicks@bestpracticenet.co.uk or call 01172445850

Early years teaching career pathway



Loughborough College

Radmoor Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire. LE11 3BT

Courses Available:

For up-to-date course information and to apply:

www.loucoll.ac.uk/courses/childcare



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Cache Level 1 Diploma in Caring for Children – 1 year course

Level 2 Diploma in Early Years Practitioner – 1 year course

Education & Childcare Early Years Educator T-Level – 2 year course, (Full Time)

Foundation Degree in Children & Young People - 3 year course (Part-Time)

BA (Hons) in Education Studies Top-Up – 2 years (Part Time)

For more information or to have an informal discussion please contact:

Student Recruitment: StudentRecruitment@loucoll.ac.uk

Apprenticeships:

For up-to-date course information and to apply:

www.loucoll.ac.uk/courses/apprenticeships

Intermediate Apprenticeship (Level 2) in Early Years Practitioner (EYP)

Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3) in Early Years Educator (EYE)

Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship

For more information or to have an informal discussion please contact:

Apprenticeships – Apprenticeships@loucoll.ac.uk

Montessori Apprentice Academy

58-60 Merton Road, Watford, Hertfordshire. WD18 0WY

Apprenticeships:

Online resources with coursework submitted to an e-portfolio. This includes 1:1 taught lessons and Tutor reviews/visits every 2 months

Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship Level 2 (EYP)

Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Level 3 (EYE)

Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Level 3 (EYE) Plus Montessori Diploma

Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship

For more information or to have an informal discussion please view the website

<https://montessoriapprentice.co.uk/> or contact:

NWSLC – North Warwickshire and South Leicester College

Wigston Campus: Blaby Road, South Wigston, Leicestershire. LE18 4PH (Satnav LE18 4PN)

Nuneaton Campus: Hinckley Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. CV11 6BH

Courses Available at Wigston:

For up-to-date course information and to apply: www.nwslc.ac.uk

Email: enquiries@nwslc.ac.uk

Level 1 Childcare – 1 year course (Full Time)

Level 2 Childcare – 1 year course (Full Time) *Does not include licence to Practice

Education & Childcare Early Years Educator T-Level – 2 year course, (Full Time)

Courses Available at Nuneaton:

For up-to-date course information and to apply: www.nwslc.ac.uk

Email: enquiries@nwslc.ac.uk

Level 1 Childcare – 1 year course (Full Time)

Level 1 Award in an Introduction to Early Years Settings (13 week course for 3 hours per week)

Level 2 Childcare – 1 year course (Full Time) *Does not include licence to Practice

Level 2 Early Years Practitioner (Licence to Practice) – 1 year course (Part Time) age 19+

Education & Childcare Early Years Educator T-Level – 2 year course, (Full Time)

HND Early Education and Care – 2 year course (Part Time)

BA (Hons) Working in Integrated Services for Children & Young People (Level 6 top up) – 1 year course (Part Time)

For more information or to have an informal discussion please contact:

Helen Nixon: Helen.Nixon@nwslc.ac.uk

Shaping Lives (Formally Paragon Skills)

Head Office is based at Station Approach, Ashley Road, Bournemouth, BH1 4NB

Courses Available:

For up-to-date course information and to apply: <https://shapinglives.co.uk/>

Apprenticeships:

Online resources with coursework submitted to an e-portfolio. This includes 1:1 taught lessons and Tutor reviews/visits every 2 months

Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship Level 2 (EYP)

Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Level 3 (EYE)

Early Years Lead Practitioner Level 5

For more information or to have an informal discussion please contact:

Jordan Elms (Senior Business Development Manager)

Jordan.elms@shapinglives.co.uk or 07423111745

Navdeep Rakkar (Business Development Manager)

Navdeep.rakkar@shapinglives.co.uk or 07754559397

Pen Green

108 Rockingham Road, Corby, Northamptonshire. NN17 1AG.

Courses Available:

For up-to-date course information regarding degree programmes and routes into teaching: www.pengreen.org/pen-green-degree-programmes-2/apprenticeship/

Level 1 Award in an Introduction to Early Years Settings

Level 3 Diploma for the Early Years Workforce–EYE (delivered via distance learning)

NPQ in Early Years Leadership

Foundation Degree Early Childhood & Education (Integrated Working with Families and Children)

BA (Hons) Top-Up Early Childhood & Education (Integrated Working with Families and Children)

MA in Early Childhood & Education (Integrated Working with Families and Children)

Email Enquiries: enquiries@pengreen.org

Telephone: 01536 443435

Apprenticeships:

Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Level 3 (EYE)

For more information or to have an informal discussion please contact:

Jo Benford (Assistant Head) Joanne.Benford@northnorthants.gov.uk or Katherine Clark (Senior Researcher and Tutor) Katherine.Clark@northnorthants.gov.uk

Realise

Head office is based at First Floor Cygnet House, 1 Jenkin Road, Sheffield. S9 1AT

Courses Available:

Learners benefit from various learning opportunities, webinars, independent study, 1:1 sessions and remote support sessions.

For up-to-date course information and to apply:

www.realisetraining.com/apprentice-programmes

Skills Bootcamps:

Early Years Skills Bootcamp – either 3 week in person course, 6 week mid-week online programme or 12-week online Saturday only programme.

Apprenticeships:

Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship -Level 2 (EYP)

Early Years Educator Apprenticeship - Level 3 (EYE)

Early Years Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship - Level 5

For more information or to have an informal discussion please contact:

Karen Derbyshire (Operations Director Early Years)

Karen.Derbyshire@realisetraining.com or 07525903488

**SMB College Group (Previously Stephenson College
& Brooksby Melton College)**

Brooksby Campus

Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. LE14 2LJ

Telephone 01664 850850

Email: enquiries@smbgroup.ac.uk

Courses Available:

For up to date course information and to apply:

www.smbcollegigroup.ac.uk/courses/childcare-and-education

T-Level Foundation Year in Education & Childcare – 1 year course, (Full Time)

Education & Childcare Early Years Educator T-Level – 2 year course, (Full Time)

Foundation Degree Childhood, Education & SEND – 3 year course (Part-Time)

The Childcare Company (PACEY)

The Porter Building, Office 219, 2nd Floor, 1 Brunel Way, Slough. SL1 1FQ

Courses Available:

For up-to-date course information and to apply: www.thechildcarecompany.com

Home Based Childcare Award (HBCA) – Level 3 Award (not a Level 3 Qualification)

Skills Bootcamps:

Early Years Skills Bootcamp –9 remote full day teaching masterclass with 1 face to face full day teaching

Apprenticeships:

Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship (Level 2)

Early Years Educator Apprenticeship (Level 3)

Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner

Online resources with coursework submitted to an e-portfolio. This includes 1:1 taught lessons and Tutor reviews/visits every 2 months



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For more information or to have an informal discussion please contact:
Ali Franklin (Client Partnership Manager) Ali.Franklin@thechildcarecompany.com or
call 01753 978514 / 07294562891

Train Together

3 Gilmour Cl, Leicester. LE4 1EZ

Courses Available:

www.traintogetherltd.co.uk

Level 2 Diploma in PlayWork

Level 4 Certificate in Neuroscience in Early Years Course

Apprenticeships:

Early Years Practitioner Apprenticeship Level 2 (EYP)

Early Years Educator Apprenticeship Level 3 (EYE)

Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner Apprenticeship

Online resources with coursework submitted to an e-portfolio. This includes 1:1
taught lessons and Tutor reviews/visits every 2 months

For more information or to have an informal discussion please contact:

Charles Dall'Omo (CEO) Charles.dallomo@traintogetherltd.co.uk

Nicola Thorpe (Client Relationship Partner) Nicola.thorpe@traintogether.co.uk or call
0116 2358000

While some of the above training providers and colleges offer Higher Education (Level 4,5 and 6) Qualifications, below are universities who deliver Early Years Degrees, Foundation Degrees and Early Years Teacher Status.

Open University

Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA

www.open.ac.uk

Telephone: 01908 274066

Open University Early Years Courses

University of Derby

Kedleston Road, Derby DE22 1GB

www.derby.ac.uk

Telephone: 01332 590500

University of Northampton

Waterside Campus, University Drive, Northampton NN1 5PH

Telephone: 01604 735500 or 0300 303 2772

www.northampton.ac.uk

Email: study@northampton.ac.uk

University of Warwick

Coventry CV4 7AL

www.warwick.ac.uk

Telephone: 024 7652 3523

Email: ugadmissions@warwick.ac.uk

Useful Websites relating to working in Childcare/Early Years

LCC Early Learning and Childcare homepage: <http://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/ELC>

Training and Professional Development: <http://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/elc-cpd>