



NORTH EDINBURGH CHILDCARE

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THE CHILDCARE ACADEMY

The purpose of the Childcare Academy programme is to help unemployed people to progress into jobs in childcare by providing them with the right combination of training and support. For those aged 16 – 24 the programme runs for 26 weeks (maximum of 30 hours per week over 5 days) and for those aged 25 and over the programme runs for 16 weeks (maximum of 30 hours per week over 5 days). It is delivered as follows:

STAGE 1 - PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME – FOR ALL TRAINEES

The Pre-employment training course runs for the first three weeks. This stage will equip the trainees with the necessary knowledge, awareness and skills required to render them 'ready for employment' within a childcare environment. The programme will introduce trainees to the values that underpin childcare practice, the childcare workers role and to some of the basic knowledge and skills required. It will involve some practical sessions to support trainees to implement fun activities with children (creative play, storytelling, games, music activities and more) and involve some more knowledge based sessions introducing how children develop through play, exploring equality and managing children's behaviour. It will also involve the development of some of the softer skills including confidence building, self awareness and communication.

STAGE 2 - WORK PLACEMENT AND 2 SVQ UNITS – FOR THOSE AGED 16 - 24

This part of the programme runs for no longer than 23 weeks. Trainees enter work placements in a range of childcare settings throughout Edinburgh and work towards attainment of 2 x Accredited SQA Units taken from the SVQ Social Services Children and Young People at SCQF level 6 (formerly known as the SVQ level 2) Award. A range of support is provided and trainees are expected to attend weekly underpinning knowledge training at the Childcare Academy.

STAGE 2 – WORK PLACEMENT AND 2 SVQ UNITS – FOR THOSE AGED 25 AND OVER

This part of the programme runs for no longer than 13 weeks. Trainees enter work placements for 8 weeks in a range of childcare settings throughout Edinburgh and work towards attainment of 2 x Accredited SQA Units taken from the SVQ Social Services Children and Young People Award at level 6 (formerly known as the SVQ level 2) A range of support is provided and trainees are expected to attend weekly underpinning knowledge training at the Childcare Academy. The remaining 5 weeks will be spent portfolio building with assessor support in North Edinburgh Childcare.

PROGRESSION INTO EMPLOYMENT

Workshops to enhance the trainee's personal effectiveness and their job search ability are delivered throughout the Childcare Academy training programme and cover areas including confidence building, effective communication, professional identity (appropriate behaviour/dress etc), effective team working, self-organisation and time management, developing interview skills (including mock interviews and feedback), successful completion of a cv and developing presentation skills. Trainees are actively supported and encouraged to progress into employment from the beginning of their Childcare Academy course. Once having successfully secured employment, trainees then continue to work with the Childcare Academy until the completion of their 2 SVQ Units.

SUPPORT FOR TRAINEES

The support provided aims to meet the needs of trainees, enable them to overcome barriers and to fully participate in the training programme and gain entry to employment. The support includes:

- Regular trainee / Assessor meetings to plan for assessments, carry out regular observations of performance, provide feedback, guidance and support when required and review trainees' progress in relation to their Individual Training Plans.
- Access to a comprehensive underpinning knowledge tutorial programme
- Access to study skill support in relation to any literacy and numeracy difficulties identified

- Access to allocated Assessor for support outwith planned meetings during underpinning knowledge sessions and self study times and through telephone and e-mail contact.
- Eligible young people age 16 – 18 years (who are not in receipt of benefits) may also be entitled to a weekly Young Peoples Allowance of £55 for a maximum of 26 weeks whilst undertaking the programme

WORKING WITH EMPLOYERS

North Edinburgh Childcare actively involves childcare employers in the provision of work placement and employment opportunities for Childcare Academy trainees. We engage employers in providing feedback in relation to trainees' performance and assessing their readiness for employment. We also involve employers in the evaluation of the Childcare Academy programme and actively encourage employers to advertise job opportunities directly to trainees through the Childcare Academy.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

The aim of the Childcare Academy is to support trainees to secure employment within the childcare field however in order to sustain employment, all Childcare Workers are required to register with the Scottish Social Services Council and the minimum qualification required for registration is the SVQ Social Services: Children and Young People Award at SCQF level 6.

Upon successful completion of the Childcare Academy programme, trainees will therefore be supported to access 'Progression Routes' including completion of the full SVQ Social Services: Children and Young People Award at SCQF level 6 and possible progression directly on to the SVQ Social Services Children and Young People Award at SCQF level 7 (formerly known as SVQ level 3). For those eligible this could be through our Modern Apprenticeship programme. We have been allocated places for all ages (16+)

VENUE

The pre-employment training and the underpinning knowledge training for the SVQ Units are delivered from our safe, friendly, fully equipped training suite within our purpose built childcare centre in North Edinburgh (see address below). Although trainees will be expected to travel to North Edinburgh for the above, we do try to place trainees within childcare work placements as close to their homes as possible to minimise the need for travel.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In order to qualify for a place at the Childcare Academy you must be unemployed, eligible for funding and successfully complete our interview process. You must also be able to obtain a satisfactory PVG Scheme Record and two satisfactory references and you must also complete a medical questionnaire.

TO FIND OUT MORE

If you are interested in joining the Childcare Academy please visit our website at www.northedinburghchildcare.co.uk or alternatively please contact Audrey O'Neill, Communications & Compliance Officer on 0131 311 6931 or e-mail audrey.oneill@northedinburghchildcare.co.uk