

The benefits of being an Apprentice



Anna's grand plan comes true, thanks to her Mum and Jancett Day Nursery

"I always wanted to work with children, and thanks to my mum spotting an advertisement in our local paper, my dream has come true." Anna Jahnke, Child Care Apprentice

Anna always planned a career in childcare. When she was aged 14 she took Health and Social Care as an exam option at school and when she completed her GCSEs, she began looking in earnest for a job.

A sharp eye

Luckily for her, Anna's mum spotted an advertisement in the local paper for a Child Care Apprenticeship available through local training provider Jace Training with a nursery called Jancett Day Nursery.

"Mum was quick off the mark and called Jace Training who offered me an interview," says Anna who is now aged 19. "They enrolled me on their Entry to Employment course and gave me an immediate placement as a student with Jancett Day Nursery, it was great – I couldn't believe my luck!"

Comparing notes

Anna completed did her key skills with Jace Training and settled into working at the nursery four days a week with one day spent studying towards her Apprenticeship in class at her training provider.

"I trained with six others Apprentices at Jace, some from my nursery and some from other nurseries and it was interesting to swap stories and ideas about how to care for the children and what activities worked best," she says. "Sharing experiences and comparing notes really helps when you are back in the nursery trying to make things stimulating and fun for the children."

“Since she started with us she’s developed and matured into a really confident and responsible member of staff. We are delighted to have her”

Group leader

Anna will complete her Level 3 in July and says that when she’s got some more experience under her belt, she would love to go and work in other nurseries in the future.

“With my NVQ 3 I can be a group leader, which means I can supervise a nursery room. This makes me more employable, but at the moment I’m very happy at Jancett and appreciate all the support and training they’ve given me. I also love working with the children and seeing them grow up.”

Potty training blues

Anna is currently working with the 2-3 year old age group. “It’s a lovely age – they can walk and communicate so we can begin to teach them their alphabet. The only not-so-nice part of it is that they are also at the age when potty-training becomes necessary, so I spend a lot of my time watching them closely and helping them get to the loo in time.”

Flexible and dependable

Anna is now employed as a member of staff three days a week and as an Apprentice for two days. Her manager, Sharon Bullimore, is delighted with Anna’s progress.

She said: “Anna is a really valuable member of our staff. One of her greatest assets is that she’s flexible and adapts easily to a range of surroundings and children’s ages. We run a baby unit alongside the main nursery, which is also my responsibility and whilst she usually works with an older age group, if we occasionally have to rearrange the staff rota then I can be confident that she’ll fit in where needed, understand the routine and really make a positive contribution.

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Standing on her own two feet

Anna is enjoying her new-found role, especially as it’s helping her to stand on her own feet economically. “The money’s useful, but like most people it doesn’t go as far as I’d like after paying my bills such as mobile phone and car insurance, but I’m really glad that I’ve followed this career. I wouldn’t have enjoyed studying for A levels or any other courses at a college of further education. I wanted to be out there, doing, learning and working.”



If you would like further information about Apprenticeships in South London call the Apprenticeship Hotline on 0800 169 4824 or visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk

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