

The benefits of being an Apprentice



Sam finally trusts her instinct and discovers her true career.

“Everyone always said I should work with children, but I never thought I would be capable so I started down another career path before I finally trusted my own instincts and listened to what my friends were saying.” Sam Hone, Child Care Apprentice

Sam is aged 21 and works as a Child Care Apprentice at Cannock House Day Nursery. She is currently working towards her NVQ 2 in Child Care and hopes to achieve an NVQ 3 after that.

Second time lucky

This isn't her first Apprenticeship, however. When she left school she began working in retail and finally progressed onto a Retail Apprenticeship with Superdrug.

“I left school with poor GCSE results because I had learning difficulties,” explains Sam. “I didn't have any career plan and because I am the oldest child in the family, I didn't have another brother or sister to follow or get ideas from.”

Trying jobs out

Sam started working at Argos but after a few months moved to work as a volunteer in a nursery where her aunt was employed.

“I enjoyed the work, but still wasn't confident enough to think I could make a career out of it, so I looked around for an Apprenticeship in retail, where I already had experience,” says Sam.

Sam found a training provider who placed her with Superdrug, where she completed a Retail Apprenticeship. She then moved to work at Tesco as a fishmonger and on the delicatessen.

“I liked the work, but what I really enjoyed most was talking with the children and explaining all the products to them,” she says.

"I love working with all ages of children and now I know that I've got a real knack for it, I've gained more confidence too"

Capable

"Then I realised that if I could complete one Apprenticeship successfully, and I got on with children so well, I really was capable of working in Child Care, so I began looking around on the internet to see what opportunities there were for someone like me."

Sam looked on the Jobcentre webpage and found an Apprenticeship opportunity in Child Care through training provider Smart Training.

"I applied and went for the interview, which went well," she says. "By this time I was OK about interviews, I'd certainly done enough of them. What was more nerve-racking was the trial day I had to do."

Nothing is impossible

"I've learned that nothing's impossible if you are committed and enthusiastic about what you are doing," she says. "I've learned to approach my Apprenticeship training in a different way so I'm not stressed. I do things in my own time and my own way to achieve a successful result. Yes it takes a bit more time, but I don't mind because I've done it before and I know I can do it again."

"This time next year I'll have my NVQ 2, which will be a real achievement."

Sam's 'Rock'

Sam been helped and supported by her mum, who she describes as 'My Rock'.

"She told me to go for it and that's just what I've done," adds Sam.

"I love working with all ages of children and now I know that I've got a real knack for it, I've gained more confidence too. I'm lucky to have finally found something to do that I love, that I'm good at and which I get paid to do."



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