



How an Apprenticeship in Childcare has fired Carly's ambition.

Carly Dalton left Warlingham School in Croydon at age 16 with no idea what she wanted to do, but determined to earn money. Now, at 23, she's discovered a career she loves, ambition she didn't know she had – and she's earning money too!

Carly Dalton says:

"When I left school, it was a money thing: I worked to earn, not to learn. Now I've found something I love doing, something I'm good at, I'm back in business and eager to get on."

After working for another nursery, three years ago Carly left, and began work for Thornton Heath Early Years Centre – initially just filling in where they needed help.

Experience but no qualifications

"I'd got a lot of experience, but no qualifications to prove it," she explains. Quickly, her new employers discovered her talent and offered her full time work,

so Carly approached YMCA Training, a local training provider, who organised her Apprenticeship. Now she's almost at the end of her Advanced Apprenticeship, Carly can't wait to finish.

Hard work pays off

"It's been hard work, with a day each month at college, my assessor coming in most weeks to support me and work to complete, but I'm nearly there now.

"In a few years I might like to train as a teaching assistant, or go into Social Services. At the moment, though, I love what I'm doing and the children that I'm caring for. Finally, I've found a career that gives me what I didn't realise I was looking for."

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