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COURSE

EARLY YEARS EDUCATOR (LEVEL 3)

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KEY COURSE INFORMATION

DURATION
18 Months

LEVEL
3

SKILLS ENGLAND STANDARD REFERENCE NO.
ST0135

SKILLS ENGLAND LINK
https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/apprenticeships/st0135-v1-5

SKILLS FUNDING GROUP LINK
https://www.skillsfundinggroup.com/funded-courses/

FULL FUNDING VALUE
£7,000

5% Contribution (if applicable)
£350

TIME COMMITMENT
4 hours per week working specifically on this course during working hours plus 2 hours employer led CPD

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR
Upskilling Existing Members of Staff and the Recruitment of Fresh Candidates

FUNDING TYPE
Advanced Apprenticeship

DELIVERY STYLE
121 Remote Video Calls
Online Peer Group Workshops

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CANDIDATE PROGRESSION

AFTER COMPLETING THIS COURSE

Completion of this course supports progression into senior early years roles, specialist practice, or further education and teaching pathways.

Progression Opportunities

Candidates may progress into:

- Senior Practitioner roles in early years settings
- Room Leader positions
- Key Person responsibilities
- Specialist roles in SEND, safeguarding, or early intervention
- Supervisory and leadership positions
- Progression onto Level 4 and Level 5 early years, education, or leadership qualifications

Further Development

Many learners progress onto:

- Advance expertise in child development and inclusive practice
- Develop skills in early intervention and curriculum leadership within EYFS
- Pursue SEND pathways or safeguarding leadership roles

Professional Readiness

Following completion, candidates will:

- Work confidently and autonomously within statutory frameworks
- Demonstrate strong professional behaviours and communication skills
- Apply safeguarding knowledge to support children's wellbeing and development
- Operate effectively as a qualified Early Years Educator

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EMPLOYER BENEFITS

AFTER COURSE COMPLETION
(CQC-ALIGNED)

Employers benefit from qualified Early Years Educators who strengthen quality, compliance, and outcomes across early years provision.

Employers benefit from staff who:

- Understand child development, safeguarding, and the EYFS statutory framework
- Plan and deliver purposeful learning activities
- Observe and assess children's progress
- Support inclusive practice in early years settings
- Contribute to inspection readiness, staffing ratios, and high-quality provision

The apprenticeship provides:

Employers typically see:

- Improved quality of early years provision
- Increased staff confidence and competence
- Stronger safeguarding practice
- Better outcomes for children
- Supports staff retention and workforce stability
- Offers clear development and progression opportunities

The programme supports:

- Supports high-quality early education
- Ensures regulatory compliance
- Promotes sustainable workforce development in early years settings

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COURSE OVERVIEW

The Early Years Educator Level 3 programme is designed for individuals working with children from birth to five years, supporting their learning, development, and wellbeing. The course develops the knowledge, skills, and behaviours required to deliver high-quality early education in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Learners gain a strong understanding of child development, safeguarding, inclusive practice, and curriculum delivery. The programme emphasises observation, assessment, and reflective practice, enabling learners to plan activities that support children's progress across all areas of learning. Delivered through a blended remote model, learners benefit from personalised one-to-one support and collaborative peer learning while applying their learning directly within their early years setting.

This programme prepares learners to operate confidently and professionally as qualified Early Years Educators.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- UK/EU Citizen for 3+ years
- Work 16+ hours per week on average
- Employed on a PAYE Scheme
- Not on any other government-funded course

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WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR

This course is designed for individuals working with young children in early years and childcare settings.

This course is ideal for:

- Nursery practitioners, early years assistants, and childminders
- Individuals working in early years provision seeking a recognised qualification
- Suitable for both new and experienced staff
- Staff working with children aged 0–5

Typical Job Roles Include:

- Early Years Educator
- Nursery Practitioner
- Nursery Assistant
- Childcare Practitioner
- Early Years Assistant
- Room Support Practitioner

This course is suitable for employers operating in:

- Day nurseries
- Pre-schools
- Nursery schools
- Maintained and private early years settings
- Childminding settings
- Early years provision within schools

All learning aligns to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), safeguarding legislation, and early years inspection requirements.

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KNOWLEDGE

On completion of the course, candidates will have knowledge of:

- Understand child development from birth to five years
- Know safeguarding and welfare requirements
- Apply the EYFS statutory framework
- Promote inclusive practice in early years settings
- Use observation and assessment to support learning
- Plan and deliver an effective curriculum
- Collaborate with parents and other professionals

SKILLS

- Candidates will be able to
- Plan and deliver learning activities for children
- Observe and assess children's progress
- Support inclusive practice in early years settings
- Maintain safe and stimulating environments
- Apply safeguarding procedures effectively
- Communicate clearly with children, parents, and colleagues
- Support children's wellbeing and development

BEHAVIOURS

Candidates will demonstrate the following core behaviours in their work:

- Professionalism – acting with integrity and reliability in all situations
- Empathy – understanding and responding to children's and colleagues' needs
- Responsibility – taking ownership of actions and decisions
- Reflective Practice – evaluating and improving one's own professional practice
- Commitment to Safeguarding – prioritising children's safety and wellbeing
- Commitment to Equality – promoting fairness and inclusion
- Continuous Improvement – striving to enhance quality of care and learning
- Positive Role Modelling – setting a good example for children and colleagues

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DELIVERY MODEL

The delivery model for the Early Years Educator Level 3 programme consists of a blended approach combining one-to-one learning and assessment, online course content, and structured peer group activity.

1:1 In-Person Visits

Learners receive regular one-to-one face- to-face visits from a dedicated trainer or assessor. These sessions focus on:

- Observing the learner in their workplace
- Reviewing progress against the apprenticeship standard
- Providing tailored coaching, feed back and support
- Gathering evidence to demonstrate competence

This approach ensures learning is directly aligned to the learner's role and workplace practices.

1:1 Remote Video Calls

Learners also take part in one-to-one remote sessions via video call. These sessions are used to:

- Review learning and progress
- Provide targeted early years guidance
- Discuss reflective practice and child development
- Support off-the-job training requirements.

Online Peer Group Workshops

Learners attend online peer group workshops alongside other apprentices. These sessions:

- Attend online peer group workshops with other early years apprentices
- Share practice and discuss challenges in early years settings
- Explore and apply best practice across different settings
- Reinforce EYFS principles, inclusive practice, and professional behaviours
- Build confidence and a supportive learning community

Peer workshops help build a supportive learning community while developing teamwork and communication skills.

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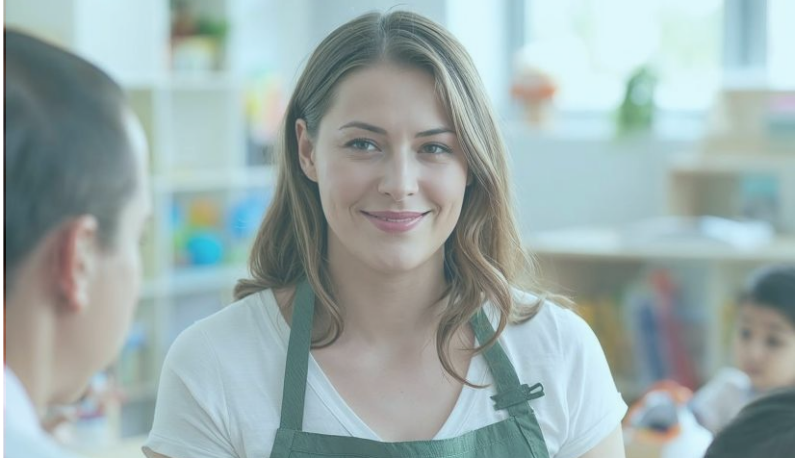
ASSESSMENT

END POINT ASSESSMENT (EPA)



The End Point Assessment (EPA) confirms that the apprentice has met the occupational standard for the Early Years Educator Level 3 programme. It takes place once the apprentice has completed on-programme learning and is assessed as competent.

What the End Point Assessment Consists Of:

The EPA for this apprenticeship is made up of the following assessment methods:

Observation of Practice

- Apply skills and knowledge in real early years workplace settings
- Demonstrate professional behaviours, communication, and practice

Practical competence

- Provide documented examples of applied skills, knowledge, and behaviours
- Show evidence of safe, effective, and reflective practice

Professional Discussion

- Participate in a structured discussion with an independent assessor
- Demonstrate underpinning knowledge and understanding
- Reflect on practice and decision-making
- Evidence understanding of safeguarding, duty of care, and professional standards

How the End Point Assessment Is Completed

- The assessment is delivered by an independent End Point Assessment Organisation
- Evidence gathered throughout the programme supports the assessment process
- Assessments may be completed in the workplace or remotely, where appropriate
- Apprentices are assessed against the knowledge, skills, and behaviours defined in the standard
- Following assessment, apprentices are awarded Pass or Fail, with re-assessment if required
- Successful completion results in the apprentice achieving the Early Years Educator Level 3 qualification

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PREPARATION AND SUPPORT

Throughout the programme, learners are supported to:

- Build evidence of competence
- Prepare for assessment requirements
- Understand what to expect at EPA

This ensures apprentices approach the End Point Assessment with confidence and clarity.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES ABOUT COURSE OR FUNDING

01174 635063

info@skillsfundinggroup.com

CONTACT INFORMATION & USEFUL LINKS

Skills England Technical Information:

Early Years Educator Level 3 – Skills England Standard

Early years educator / Skills England

Setting Up Online Digital Account:

Create an Apprenticeship Service Account (Employers)

https://www.skillsfundinggroup.com/digital-account

Applying for Apprenticeship Levy Transfer:

Receive or Transfer Levy Funds – GOV.UK Guidance

https://www.skillsfundinggroup.com/levy-transfer/

Enrol on this Course

Enrolment For This Course:

https://www.skillsfundinggroup.com/enrolment

Book a Video Call

To book a video call about this course;

https://www.skillsfundinggroup.com/start-the-conversation/