



Best
Practice
Network

Monthly starts

Funding available

Recruitment support

Become an Early Years Educator

with the Early Years Educator Level 3 Apprenticeship.



EYE AT A GLANCE

Course Duration: Up to 15-18 months

- ✓ Blended training
- ✓ Counts towards EYFS Level 3 child : staff ratios
- ★ Early Years Educator Level 3. Award in Paediatric First Aid OR Emergency Paediatric First Aid

"I've had a great experience with my tutor Sarah, she made me feel comfortable and really made sure that I understood anything I was unsure of."

Level 3 Apprentice

Learn. Share. Grow.

About

The Level 3 Early Years Educator apprenticeship is a funded work-based training programme focused on those working with and caring for children from 0–5 years.

This Level 3 apprenticeship is suitable if you are already working in, or aspiring to work in, Early Years childcare. It is an excellent progression route if you are a practitioner who holds a Level 2 qualification in Early Years and are looking to pursue a career as an Early Years Educator, Nursery Teaching Assistant, Nursery Nurse, Supervisor or Child Minder.

What will I be learning?

The course is delivered over 15-18 months, including monthly webinars, tutor visits and online coursework.



How will I be learning?

The programme offers a blended approach including virtual classrooms, webinars, work-based tasks and online assignments. We use an online platform that helps you learn the topics and skills, reflect on your practice and build your portfolio. You will also receive one-to-one support and tuition from your apprenticeship tutor.

Reviews

You will have reviews and support from your tutor every 6 weeks, either by a visit to your setting or online. Your employer/mentor will be an integral part of these reviews.

Curriculum themes

- Module 1** Personal development
- Module 2** Safeguarding
- Module 3** Health and safety
- Module 4** Child development
- Module 5** Theories of play and learning
- Module 6** A unique child
- Module 7** Teaching, learning and assessment
- Module 8** Enabling Environments
- Module 9** Equality, diversity and SEND
- Module 10** Partnership working
- Module 11** Transitions

The modules are taught over monthly webinars, giving apprentices the chance to share ideas. Each module is linked to the knowledge, skills and behaviours that the apprentice will be assessed on.

These can be revisited throughout the programme to solidify the learning through practice and reflection.

Off-the-job training

For the apprenticeship, a certain amount of your working hours should be focused on gaining new learning.

The amount will be dependent on your contracted hours per week. Please see the table for more information.

See below for more examples.

Contract hours

Off-the-job training

30 hours or more	Average of 6 hours per week
Less than 30 hours	20% of working hours and the programme length will be extended accordingly
Term time only contract	More than 6 hours per week



Functional Skills

If you have not secured a grade 4 (C) or above (or equivalent) in maths and English GCSE, you will be required to complete Functional Skills Level 2 in:

- **English** – reading, writing, speaking and listening
- **Maths** – calculator with a non-calculator section

You will be supported on a one-to-one basis by your apprenticeship tutor to complete these as quickly as possible using a range of training materials to best suit you.



Gateway

On programme completion, you, your employer and apprenticeship tutor will meet to agree you are ready for your End Point Assessment.

This is also a chance for your tutor to help with any questions you have about the assessment, and make sure you are confident and happy to proceed.

End Point Assessment (EPA)

The EPA is conducted by an external company. A pass, merit or distinction grade can be achieved.

The assessment period is for up to 3 months, but can be quickly achieved.

- Assessment 1 – professional discussion through your portfolio (90 minutes for 10 questions)
- Assessment 2 – Observation with questioning in the workplace (50 minutes observation with 30 minutes questioning)



What do I need to apply?

You must be 16 or over and meet these points to apply.

GCSE English & maths Grade C (4) or above OR able to achieve both on our programme through Functional Skills.

Funding agreed with the apprenticeship account holder. Support is available.

Support from your employer OR support finding an employer.

UK residency for 3+ years.

Funding

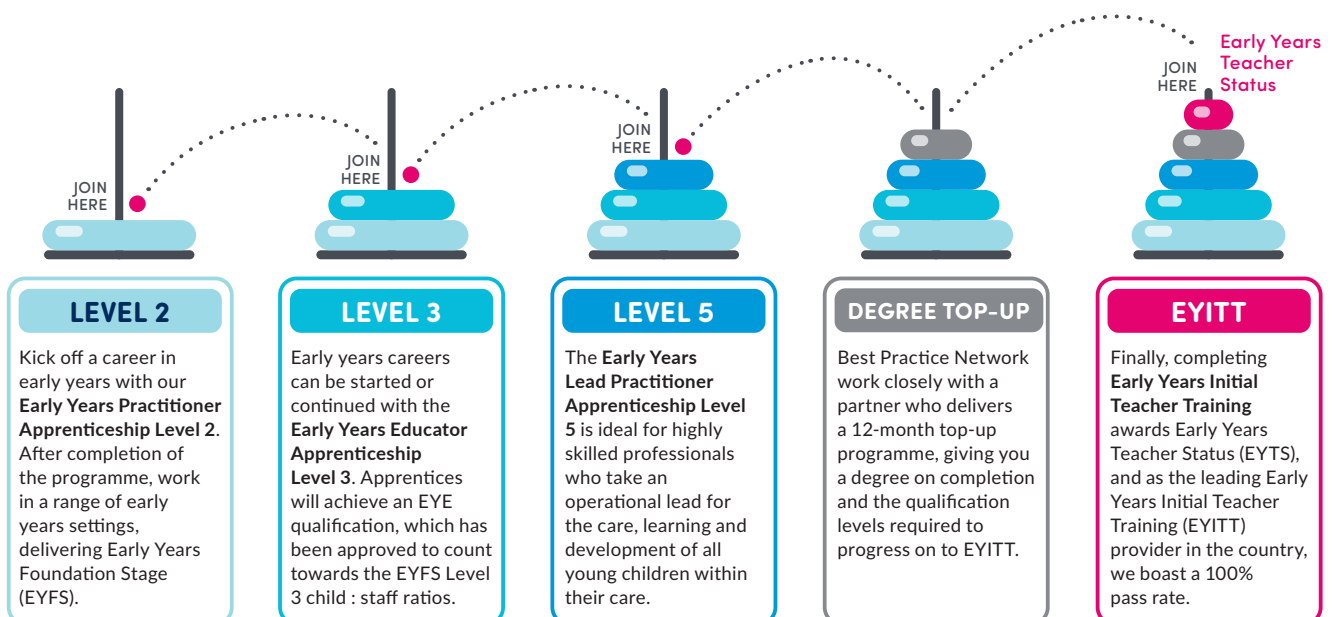
As an apprentice, you will not have to pay any money towards your course. You will need the support from your setting, who can access funds from the English apprentice levy fund. Best Practice Network can help your employer with information and support if needed to apply for these funds.

How to apply

To apply, you should complete the application via the [programme page](#) on our website. Our team will be in touch to guide you through the next steps. You will need to upload proof of existing qualifications and complete a short maths and English initial assessment.

Where do I go next?

The Early Years Educator Level 3 is an advanced apprenticeship equivalent to an NVQ 3. You could progress to the Level 5 Early Years Lead Practitioner apprenticeship and do further training to reach Early Years Teacher Status.



For employers – how apprenticeships could benefit your setting



Hiring an apprentice

You can employ apprentices at different levels, from school leavers or recent graduates to people who wish to advance in their careers or change careers altogether.

The government offers a range of funding options to help settings support apprentice training.

If you need help recruiting for an apprentice in your setting or school, we can help! Speak to our recruitment team on +44 (0) 117 920 9428 or email enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk

What is the levy fund?

The English apprenticeship levy fund is controlled by the Department for Education and was created as a long-term funding solution for companies to hire and train apprentices.

Our apprenticeship programmes qualify for funding from the English apprenticeship levy fund. Best Practice Network provides support to candidates and their employers to access this funding.

For guidance on how the funding routes apply to your setting, speak to one of our apprenticeship experts on +44 (0) 117 920 9428 or email enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk

Enrol your employees

Employers should contact Best Practice Network via enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk to reserve a place on the required programme.

We will then support you with gathering all necessary information, registering your Apprenticeship Service Account, funding applications and any necessary recruitment.

Upskill your workforce

By using apprenticeships to upskill your existing staff, you are helping to fill key gaps in your business, improving staff retention and supporting their professional development.

Here at Best Practice Network, we support learners through our career pathway, developing their skill from Level 2 to Level 5.

£ Funding routes

If your setting contributes to the apprenticeship levy fund

Levy paying employers can access their fund contributions through their **Apprenticeship Service Account**. You can use this service to manage the funds you have available for apprenticeship training in England.

If your setting does not contribute to the apprenticeship levy fund

You pay 5% towards the cost of the training for your apprentice. The remaining 95% will be paid by the government.

Apprenticeship levy transfer

Employers with unspent funds can transfer up to 25% of that contribution to another employer. That means you can benefit from the levy contributions of a different organisation to cover the full costs of an apprenticeship for your setting.

If your setting has fewer than 50 employees

You will receive **100% of the funding** where the apprentice is 16-18 years old or is between 19-24 and has a local authority education, health and care plan.

Employers and training providers will both receive an **additional £1,000** where the apprentice is between 16 and 18 years old.



"I cannot fault the support I've received in any way. Any queries or questions I have are answered promptly and I feel my confidence is rising as I know I will receive any support needed."

Early Years Apprentice

Best Practice Network is a registered apprenticeship training provider and an accredited provider of professional development for education professionals nationally, with 97% of our participants recommending us to a colleague.

We work in close partnership with practising education professionals to develop and deliver high-quality programmes.

Rated
**"an exceptional
training provider"**

- Department for Education

Learn. Share. Grow.



+44 (0) 117 920 9428

enquiries@bestpracticenet.co.uk

bestpracticenet.co.uk/EYE

