**Guidance on**

**Preparing for Placement**

**Module 3**

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**Hello and welcome back!**

“Your plan should be taking shape now. You have completed 5 topics – well done. Some areas are easier than others, and you may have found the legislation heavy going! But I promise this will help you not only on placement, but also with your course work.”

### **Activity**

We have a really great tool for you to try out called NurseryVue. It is an interactive platform that allows you to gain an understanding of what a setting is like. Don’t worry; you don’t need a virtual headset – you can access this platform from a computer or laptop. There are several different modules for you to complete:

* dietary requirements
* food and nutrition
* exercise and physical care routines
* unwell children
* hazards and risks – you will need to have a copy of the risk assessment template you looked at in Topic 6: Exploring legislation, policy and procedure.

See how you get on in NurseryVue; enjoy the experience and the quizzes to test your learning, and come back once you are finished.

[www.cache.org.uk/cache-virtual-resources/download](https://www.cache.org.uk/cache-virtual-resources/download)



“So you have completed the NurseryVue experience, how did you get on? I found it a really useful tool, it helps in many ways including building your knowledge to help with your course work. Hope you enjoyed it!”

**Topic 8: Exploring your career options**

### Activity – Explore Continuing Professional Development (CPD) options

CPD stands for Continuing Professional Development. Explore different organisations that represent your sector and see what they offer for CPD. What sort of training experiences can you see on these websites?

[www.bapn.org.uk/](https://www.bapn.org.uk/)

[www.eyalliance.org.uk/membership](https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/membership)

[www.early-education.org.uk/individual-membership](https://www.early-education.org.uk/individual-membership)

What did you find out? Can you see the options available to you as a learner and also once you are a qualified practitioner?

Tell us about what you found out, can you join each for free? Do they offer online short CPD courses relevant to you? Are there articles of interest to you?

So whether you are studying at Level 2 or 3, what are your options once qualified, what CPD could you undertake to improve your practice?

Let’s take a look at the career maps to see where you could go! [www.cache.org.uk/media/1417/dfe-career-pathway-map-v17.pdf](https://www.cache.org.uk/media/1417/dfe-career-pathway-map-v17.pdf)

**Qualified Early Years Practitioner (Level 2)**

**Opportunities for Progression:**

You could take a Level 3 Early Years Educator qualification (approved by the DfE – see [Early Years Qualification List](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder#overview)) by doing a college-based course with a work placement, or a work-based course with on the job training and assessment. Your local college or training provider will be able to provide more information about training, qualifications and funding. You should check that the qualification you are intending to do is approved by the Department for Education please visit: [Early Years Qualification List](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder#content)

Or

Apply to be an apprentice. Apprenticeships are paid jobs with training, allowing you to earn while you learn, without having to pay for your training or qualifications. There are apprenticeships available at Intermediate (Level 2) and Advanced level (Level 3).

For careers information, visit [www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/) or call 0800 100 900

For other training and development courses please visit: [www.eyupskill.org.uk/](http://eyupskill.org.uk/)

You will have a Level 2 early years qualification (approved by the DfE – see [Early Years Qualifications List](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder#overview)) or apprenticeship. A Level 2 qualification provides the grounding for understanding how to work effectively with children.

As a qualified practitioner at Level 2, in this job you are likely to:

* understand how to work effectively with children
* work with room leaders and others to care for and teach small children
* be involved in planning for children’s development and providing play activities that enable children to explore and develop
* deal with different kinds of behaviours, needs and wants as each child is unique
* have responsibility for some key children, observe how children are developing on a day to day basis, engage with parents at drop off and pick up and lead on some activities.



“How great is it to know that once qualified at Level 2, you can move on and gain your Level 3 Early Years Educator (EYE) in different ways. Apprenticeships are a good way to gain strong practical experience and a great qualification which could take you anywhere across the world – ever thought about working on a cruise ship or in a holiday crèche scheme in Spain? Your Early Years Educator qualification gives you a strong grounding for searching for the job of your dreams. Now have a look at the information about the Level 3 EYE.”

**Qualified Early Years Practitioner (Level 3 – Early Years Educator)**

You will have a Level 3 early years qualification (approved by the DfE – see [Early Years Qualification List](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder#overview) ) or a Level 3 apprenticeship, Level 2 English and maths qualifications (for example, Functional Skills or GCSEs) and a full current paediatric first aid certificate (PFA).

As a qualified practitioner at Level 3, in this job you are likely to:

* lead on children’s development as you will have more detailed knowledge and experience of children’s developmental stages
* lead a room or become a manager across the whole setting should you successfully secure a position
* have key responsibilities in addition to the Level 2 role eg liaising with external professionals and parents/carers in the best interests of the child
* undertake observation and assessment of children and track their progress, and ensure that play opportunities provided are structured to support each individual child’s needs to enable children to explore and develop
* for those working with children aged 3 to 4, the role might also include preparing children for transition to school
* work with others, often as a supervisor, or even mentor new starters that join early years as a career such as apprentices.

Now take a look at the NCFE CACHE Level 4 Certificate for the Early Years Advanced Practitioner – (601/8424/3) you can browse the Qualification Specification here: [www.qualhub.co.uk/qualification-search/qualification-detail/ncfe-cache-level-4-certificate-for-the-early-years-advanced-practitioner-301](https://www.qualhub.co.uk/qualification-search/qualification-detail/ncfe-cache-level-4-certificate-for-the-early-years-advanced-practitioner-301)

Can you see yourself completing this qualification in a few years’ time? Were you able to recognise some of the themes in the qualification?

You should also have a look through our progression map where you will see some suggested routes of learning, this will give you some ideas where your next qualification could take you: [www.qualhub.co.uk/media/1057/early-years-education-01102019.pdf](https://www.qualhub.co.uk/media/1057/early-years-education-01102019.pdf)

So you can see that following your course through to achieving your Level 3 Early Years Educator is not the end of your learning journey.

Let’s see what an experienced room leader has to say about being an early years practitioner, view the following short video [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxjqtM0Cd9o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxjqtM0Cd9o)

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### **Activity**

Describe a day in the life of an early years practitioner, give examples of:

* the planning you would do
* activities you would undertake with the children

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### **Activity Career Diagnostic**

You could try the career diagnostic tool we have on the CACHE website, this may help and give you some ideas about where you could take your career.[www.cache.org.uk/for-learners/careers-help](https://www.cache.org.uk/for-learners/careers-help)

How did you find the diagnostic tool, did you learn anything? Write a short piece about your findings.

Take some time to think about what you might want to do once you have finished your qualification. You may not have thought about your career goal yet, but it can help to identify goals and actions that will help you to reach your goal. One of these will be complete your qualification of course, but other goals may include thoughts around where you would like to work and in what role. Have a think and identify 3 goals below:

1.

2.

3.

You could also think about ways that you may work towards your goal too.

### **Wider reading and useful documents**

Some areas you should consider researching include:

[www.findmyschool.co.uk/](http://findmyschool.co.uk/)

[www.ofsted.gov.uk/](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/)

[www.childcare.co.uk](http://www.childcare.co.uk/)

[www.cache.org.uk/media/1417/dfe-career-pathway-map-v17.pdf](https://www.cache.org.uk/media/1417/dfe-career-pathway-map-v17.pdf)

Useful statutory guidance:

[www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage](https://www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage)

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2)

“Thank you for joining us on this learning journey. We hope you have found this programme enjoyable and helpful, well done on completing it.”



“Yes well done! We all wish you good luck in your placement, when you do manage to get out into a setting enjoy your time and stay safe. Goodbye for now and good luck.”

