

CHILDCARE ACADEMY INFORMATION

All childcare workers are required to register with the Scottish Social Services Council. In order to register they must have, or be working towards, a recognised childcare qualification. At the Childcare Academy we deliver a programme that will allow the students to meet the registration requirements.

The programme is delivered in two stages as follows:

STAGE 1 - PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Pre-employment training course will equip the students with the necessary knowledge, awareness and skills required to render them 'ready for employment' within a childcare environment. The programme will introduce students to the basic skills required within the work place, the values that underpin childcare practice and the childcare workers role. Included in this part of the training are certificated courses in First Aid and Food Hygiene. This part of the programme runs for the first 4 weeks and is held at North Edinburgh Childcare.

STAGE 2 - WORK PLACEMENT AND SVQ IN CHILDREN'S CARE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT LEVEL 2

This part of the programme runs for approximately 9 – 11 months. Students enter work placements in a range of childcare settings throughout Edinburgh and the surrounding areas (if required) and will undertake their SVQ in Children's Care Learning and Development level 2 with a range of support provided. Students will be released 1 day per week to attend underpinning knowledge training and job search activities at the Childcare Academy. The SVQ Units incorporated within the Level 2 qualification are as follows:

- Unit 201 Contribute to positive relationships
- Unit 202 Help to keep children safe
- Unit 203 Support children's development
- Unit 204 Use support to develop own practice in children's care learning and development
- Unit 205 Prepare and maintain environments to meet children's needs
- Unit 206 Support children's play and learning
- Unit 207 Contribute to the effectiveness of teams

PROGRESSION INTO EMPLOYMENT

Workshops to enhance the student's personal effectiveness and their job search ability are delivered throughout the Childcare Academy training programme and cover areas including confidence building, effective communication, professional identity (appropriate behaviour/dress etc), effective team working, self-organisation and time management, developing interview skills, successful completion of application forms and developing presentation skills.



Students are actively supported and encouraged to progress into employment from the beginning of their Childcare Academy course. Once having successfully secured employment, students then continue to work with the Childcare Academy until the completion of their level 2 qualification. The Childcare Academy guarantees each student the opportunity to interview if suitable opportunities become available.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

The support provided aims to meet the needs of the target group, overcome barriers and enable the students to fully participate in the training programme and gain entry to employment. The support includes:

- After pre-employment training, assessors will meet with the students every 4 weeks (minimum) to plan, carry out regular observations of their performance, feedback and guidance, support and counselling when required and to review students Individual Training Plans.
- Quarterly 3 way meetings will be held between students, assessor and work placement mentor / Employer to review progress as well as to resolve any issues or identify any further support required.
- Students will be given access to study skill support in relation to any literacy and numeracy difficulties identified.
- Assessors will also be available to students during underpinning knowledge sessions and self study times and through telephone and e-mail contact.

WORKING WITH EMPLOYERS

North Edinburgh Childcare actively involves childcare employers in the provision of work placement and employment opportunities for Childcare Academy students. We engage employers in providing feedback in relation to students' performance and assessing their readiness for employment. We also involve employers in the evaluation of the Childcare Academy programme and actively encourage employers to advertise job opportunities directly to students through the Childcare Academy.

VENUE

The pre-employment training and the underpinning knowledge training for the SVQ are delivered from our fully equipped training suite within our purpose built childcare centre in North Edinburgh (see address below). Although students will be expected to travel to North Edinburgh for the above, we do try to place students within childcare work placements as close to their homes as possible to minimise the need for travel.



In order to qualify for a place at the Childcare Academy you must be unemployed but willing to move into employment in the childcare sector and successfully complete our interview process. We must also be able to obtain a satisfactory enhanced disclosure, medical and two references for each student.

FUNDING

We continuously try to secure a range of funding streams to finance the Childcare Academy to enable the majority of unemployed people access to funding to undertake the programme. Please contact Barbara Webster using the contact details below to establish whether or not you are likely to be eligible for funding to undertake forthcoming Childcare Academy courses.

The training is free and students are expected to attend for approximately 20 – 30 hours per week (hours may be negotiable depending on individual circumstances).

If you are interested in joining the Childcare Academy please visit our website at www.northedinburghchildcare.co.uk or contact Barbara Webster, Training Coordinator on 0131 311 6926 or e-mail barbara.webster@northedinburghchildcare.co.uk alternatively please contact Kim Weir, Training Administrator on 0131 311 6931 or e-mail Kim.weir@northedinburghchildcare.co.uk

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