

Job of The Week

Nursery Assistant

Key Skills

- sensitivity and understanding
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- the ability to work well with others
- to be flexible and open to change
- excellent verbal communication skills
- customer service skills
- the ability to understand people's reactions
- active listening skills
- concentration skills
- to carry out basic tasks on a PC or hand-held device

Salary

£14,000-£24,000

Working hours

38 – 40 p/w

You could work weekends
or on a rota

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Nursery Assistant

Career path and progression

As an experienced nursery worker you could:

- ✓ Specialise in working with children who have difficulties with learning, physical disabilities, or need support with their mental health
- ✓ Room Leader
- ✓ Manager
- ✓ Business owner
- ✓ Teach further education
- ✓ Consultancy

You could also work and study overseas

College

You can take a college course before looking for work in a nursery. Courses include:

Level 2 Certificate in Childcare
Level 3 Diploma in Early Years Education and Care -
Early Years Educator

Entry requirements

- For a Level 2 course you will need 5 or more GCSEs at grades 3-9 (including English and ideally Maths)
- For a Level 3 course you will need 5 GCSEs at grades 4-9 (including Maths and English)

Apprenticeship

You could get into this career through an intermediate or advanced apprenticeship as an early years practitioner or educator

Entry requirements

- some GCSEs, usually including English and Maths, or equivalent, for an intermediate apprenticeship
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and Maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

Top Tips

You could get experience by volunteering at a local nursery group or after school club. This may lead into paid work, where you could do training on the job

A paediatric first aid certificate will also be useful but is not essential

Day to Day tasks

Your duties could include:

- take children on outings
- feed and change babies
- make sure children are safe and well
- take part in singing, role play and story telling
- observe children and make notes to write reports
- speak with parents, carers and other nursery staff
- plan and supervise activities like arts and crafts, music and cooking
- help children learn numeracy and language skills through games

Working conditions

You may need to wear a uniform which is usually provided

You could work in a nursery or playgroup setting or in a childminders home

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Nursery nurses and assistants	
Weekly Pay £370	Annual Pay £19,240
Hours/Week 31h	Hourly Pay £12
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 9.7%	Replacement 56%
<small>The workforce is projected to grow by 9.7% over the period to 2027, creating 21,700 jobs. In the same period, 56% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 125,600 job openings.</small>	
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social work Education Health Public admin. & defence 	
More info	Clear card

Child and early years officers	
Weekly Pay £540	Annual Pay £28,080
Hours/Week 33h	Hourly Pay £16
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 7.1%	Replacement 49.4%
<small>The workforce is projected to grow by 7.1% over the period to 2027, creating 2,800 jobs. In the same period, 49.4% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 19,400 job openings.</small>	
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social work Residential care Health Education Public admin. & defence 	
More info	Clear card

Primary and nursery education teaching professionals	
Weekly Pay £780	Annual Pay £40,560
Hours/Week 28h	Hourly Pay £28
Workforce Change (projected)	
Growth 8%	Replacement 59.8%
<small>The workforce is projected to grow by 8% over the period to 2027, creating 40,400 jobs. In the same period, 59.8% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 301,500 job openings.</small>	
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Services to buildings Employment activities Public admin. & defence Retail trade 	
More info	Clear card

Labour Market Information



Nursery nurses and assistants

Nursery nurses and assistants care for children from birth up to seven years of age in day or residential nurseries, children's homes, maternity units and similar establishments.

Common tasks in this job:

- baths, dresses, prepares feed for and feeds babies, changes babies clothing whenever necessary;
- supervises young children at mealtimes;
- plans and organises games and other activities and supervises children's play;
- reads stories, organises counting games to help develop language and number skills;

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Primary and nursery education teaching professionals

Primary (and middle school deemed primary) and nursery education teaching professionals plan, organise and provide instruction to children at all levels up to the age of entry into secondary education.

Common tasks in this job:

- prepares and delivers courses and lessons in accordance with curriculum requirements and teaches a range of subjects;
- prepares, assigns and corrects exercises and examinations to record and evaluate students' progress;
- prepares students for external examinations and administers and invigilates these examinations;
- maintains records of students' progress and development;

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Child and early years officers

Child and early years officers work with babies and with children up to 14 years of age (or 16 for those with special needs), providing support, help and advice to individuals or within a family context.

Common tasks in this job:

- deals with issues relating to poor attendance at school;
- works with social worker to identify, plan and deliver appropriate support to families facing a variety of difficulties;
- advises clients and their families on available resources;
- writes up case notes, prepares reports, keeps up-to-date records on clients;

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

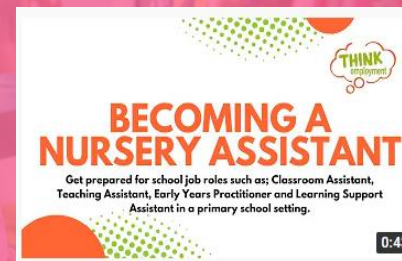
Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

A day in the life of a
Childcare Apprentice



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7srkKMIsgqM>

Becoming a
Nursery Assistant



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hZraA78Ns>

Early Years at
Peterborough Regional College



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=705Vuqq-ezE>

Being a Childcare
Apprentice Employer



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoyzSjbuhCU>

Useful Websites

[Home | Boston College UK](#)

[Apprenticeships | National Careers Service](#)

[Work for us | The Children's Trust \(thechildrenstrust.org.uk\)](#)

[Home – NDNA](#)

[Nursery nurse and nursery assistant | Health Careers](#)

<https://www.pacey.org.uk>