Apprenticeships

NKC | DARTFORD COLLEGE

September 2026

Level 3
Early Years Educator
Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship Description and Job Overview

This occupation is found in a range of maintained and private, voluntary, and independent settings such as full day care, children's centres, pre-schools, reception classes, playgroups, nursery schools, home based provision, hospitals, social care settings, out of school environments, and local authority provision.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to provide high quality early education and care to children. Through an evidence-based approach, they provide opportunities and learning experiences for all children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Early years educators follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements set by government for the learning, development, and care of children from birth to 5 in both indoor and outdoor environments.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with children, parents, carers, colleagues, and wider multi agency professionals such as health visitors, early help services, social workers, and speech and language therapists. This includes supporting children with SEND.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for ensuring a safe and secure environment for children's learning. They ensure that the learning environment and provision is inclusive and supports all children, and demonstrate a clear understand of equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Early years educators teach and facilitate children's learning and play. They apply the observation, assessment, and planning cycle to support progress and children's development. An early year's educator will act as the key person for one or more children within their setting. They may play a leadership role within the setting or may act under the supervision of a manager.

Apprenticeships

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Early Years Educator
Apprenticeship

Qualification	Level 3 Early Years Educator (Standard Code ST0135)
Training Delivery Campus	NKC Dartford College Oakfield Lane Dartford DA1 2JT
Duration of Apprenticeship	18 months Practical Period - Plus 12 weeks for End Point Assessment
Apprenticeship Entry Requirements	Maths GCSE Grade 4/C or equivalent English GCSE Grade 4/C or equivalent
Mandatory Qualification details	Level 3 Paediatric First Aid or Level Emergency Paediatric First Aid
End Point Assessment Organisation and EPA components	NCFE Assessment Method 1 - Direct observation with questioning Assessment Method 2 - Professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence Grading Structure Fail Pass Distinction
Progression Routes	Early Years Lead Practitioner Early Years Teacher

For more information, or to apply contact:
apprenticeships@northkent.ac.uk

01322 629400