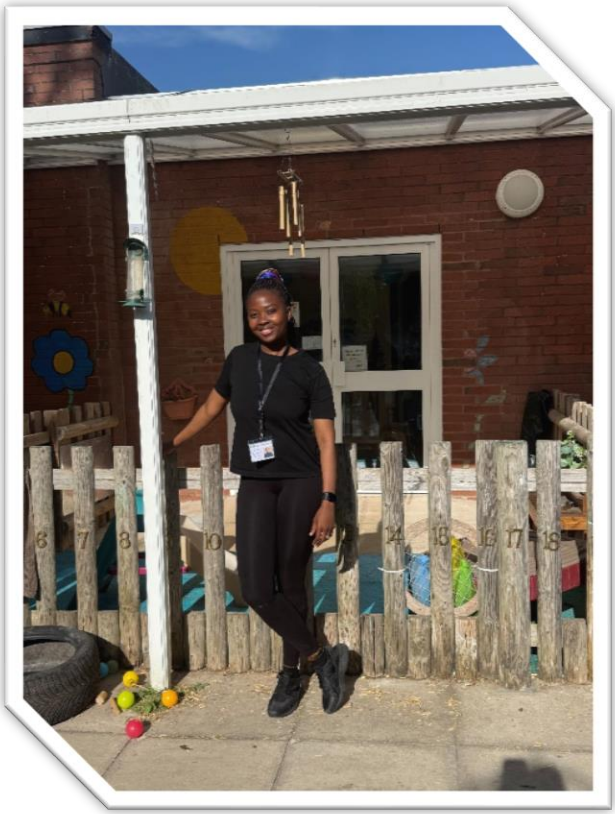
Case study: Childcare Works Project - Trainee Nursery Assistant Experience

Ayisha participated in NDNA Cymru's 16-week Childcare Works programme that was delivered in England from February to June 2025.

The programme was funded by The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust and supported 5 partners of serving military personnel as Trainee Nursery Assistants.

The trainees completed 4 weeks of training, followed by 12 weeks on placement in a childcare setting.

Ayisha completed her placement at Honeypots Nursery in Weeton and this case study shares her journey and experience of participating in the programme.



My name is Ayisha, I have 2 small boys who are now 3 years old and 8 months, I was born in Ghana and I am also a military wife.

Before joining the Childcare Works project, I felt unsure about my future and lacked the confidence to take steps towards a career in childcare. Due to being a military wife who is used to moving around, I felt like a career in Childcare was very much on hold until my family were situated somewhere permanent.

Although I had a genuine interest in working with children, I didn't know where to start or whether I had the right skills or experience.

The idea of entering a new field felt overwhelming and I questioned whether I could succeed in such a responsible and important role.

The manager of the nursery that my oldest boy was attending mentioned the Childcare Works project to me and I was interested straight away. I spoke to the Childcare Works coordinator, she briefly explained the project, sent me an application form and then booked in an interview.

My coordinator, Lesley, was so nice during the interview my nerves were immediately gone. She then described the project to me, interviewed me, then rang me a few days later and offered me a place on the project and I was so pleased.

During the 4 weeks of Childcare training, my confidence began to grow. The support from the trainers and the practical, hands-on learning during my 12 week placement helped me develop a solid understanding of what it means to work in childcare. I gained valuable skills, learnt how to create a safe and nurturing environment, and felt truly supported every step of the way.

Now, after completing the project, I felt confident and ready to take on a career in childcare. My Childcare Works Coordinator contacted local nurseries and secured an interview for me at a setting who were offering an Childcare apprenticeship. I went for the interview and they offered it to me! I accepted and have started my new job at Tree Tots Nursery in Kirkham. I love it, my 2 boys go to the nursery now too and have settled in so well. So after my apprenticeship, which I am also being paid for, I will have qualified in my Level 3 Childcare qualification and I can't believe it.

The project has opened a clear path for me to pursue a career in childcare. It is an absolutely amazing project and I hope everyone gets the opportunity to experience it.

Comment from Honeypots Nursery

We have recently had 2 Trainees from the Childcare Works Project and Ayisha was one of them.

From the beginning, the process has run really smooth. I had lots of communication with the Project Coordinator leading up to the placement starting. This included regular emails and calls with updates.

Both trainees came to visit the setting beforehand to discuss starting their placement and which days and hours would best suit the nursery.

When the ladies started they already had some good knowledge from their course that we could build on.

Throughout the placement we continued to receive support from the Project Coordinator with weekly check in calls and emails.

The ladies have been extremely helpful within the different rooms and it has been great having extra staff to support the children.

Due to having no full time vacancies ourselves, we also helped Ayisha to gain employment elsewhere by going through interview questions and being able to give her a reference.

Overall, I would highly recommend the childcare works project to those looking to start an exciting and fulfilling career in early years.

For further information contact

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