

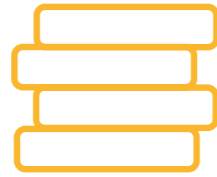
Early Years Sector

What is the Early Years Sector?

The Early Years sector refers to the learning and care a child receives up to age five. Early years education settings include nurseries, preschools, childminders and school reception classes. These first few years of a child's life are incredibly important and the workforce play a huge role in helping them to achieve their potential.



Average annual salary
£23,700



Percentage of GM workforce working in this sector

1%

(14,500 employed)

Approximate number of GM employers

1,200



Who might you work for?

- Nurseries
- Play Groups
- Primary Schools
- Your own home (as a childminder)



Soft skills

- Patience
- Communication skills
- Time management
- Teamwork
- Enjoy working with young children
- Enthusiasm
- Positive
- Creative
- Inclusive



Roles that GM employers are currently recruiting for

- Nursery Nurses
- Early Years Educators
- SEND Assistants
- Teaching Assistant
- Admin/Office Staff
- Playworker
- Child Welfare Professional

Types of qualifications

- You may not need specific early years qualifications, although some jobs might require GCSEs in subjects such as Maths and English.
- There are apprenticeship qualifications for teaching assistants and childcare workers.
- Graduate route with Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) is most common for those wanting to be Early Years teachers.

What do I need to start my career?

You don't always need a qualification to start your career in early years and childcare but a L3 qualification is something that nurseries and pre-schools often look for, and will help you progress.

The right soft skills are important, including an interest in early child development.

You will need a DBS check, and will undertake regular safeguarding training.

To work as a childminder you will need first aid and childcare training.

Many childcare and teaching assistant roles have apprenticeship opportunities.



Shortage and in demand roles

- Early Years Educator
- Early Years Practitioner
- Early Years Teachers and Teaching Assistant
- Roles working with young people with special educational needs or disabilities
- Childminder



Workplace trends

- Desire to attract more males into the sector, where the workforce is currently over 95% female.
- Roles are amongst the most advertised in GM and there is a large turnover of staff.
- Going forward, biggest growth in the sector is likely to be in caring for 0-2 year olds and so practitioners wanting to work in this age group will be in high demand.



What does the future hold for this sector?

- Desire to improve recruitment and retention by demonstrating how this sector can offer a rewarding career.
- Better career progression and training opportunities.
- The sector is growing and there is a desire to create a more diverse workforce to represent communities.
- Growing awareness about the incredible impact which the sector can have on society – especially in disadvantaged areas.



Want to know more? - Read about the early years sector [here](#) or find out more about specific job roles online by using the [National Careers Service](#) or [Prospects](#) websites. Many jobs are advertised on the employers' own websites www.gov.uk/find-a-job

