



**START
HERE**

GO ANYWHERE

Early Years



#CHOOSECOLLEGE

Early Education and Childcare



Are you Creative? Adventurous? Enthusiastic? Looking for a rewarding job? Now might be the time to think about choosing a career in Early Years, where every single day will be different!

Working in Early Years shapes children's lives, offers great career progression and is extremely sociable. There are also jobs available across Scotland, with up to 11,000 new posts by 2020.

If you enjoy spending time with young children, and you're passionate about helping them grow and learn – then you could have what it takes to work in Early Education and Childcare.

Whether you're a school leaver or a career changer, there are different ways that you can get a job in Early Years.

'Build a Brighter Future' with an Early Years career at Ayrshire College.

Possible Careers

Early Years Practitioner

Primary School Teacher

Additional Support Needs Assistant

Educational Support Assistant

Community Education Co-ordinator

Nursery Manager

Classroom Assistant

Playworker

Childminder

Play Therapist

Early Years Family Support Worker

Senior Early Years Practitioner

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Search and apply for courses at www.ayrshire.ac.uk or call **Student Services** on **0300 303 0303**

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Karen McLaughlin

Start here

PDA Childhood Practice

Go anywhere

Senior Childhood Practitioner
at Troon Primary School

"I was self-employed when I started studying at Ayrshire College. I wanted something else to do on a part-time basis alongside my business, so I signed up to the PDA Childhood Practice course, and I have never looked back!

I was offered a job at the school where I had done my first placement. The timing was perfect and so I stayed there for a year to gain experience in all classes from P1 to P7 as a Classroom Assistant.

From there I went on to the HNC. Since then I have had several temporary contract jobs as a Classroom Assistant within nurseries before I progressed to Childhood Practitioner.

It has been a real learning curve, and a really enjoyable experience. I've learned so much. I've really surprised myself. I'm so glad I did the PDA at the beginning, and was delighted to get the Student of the Year award at the time.



Now, I'm doing the Early Education degree at UWS in Ayr. Meanwhile, I thought I should apply for some senior posts to see how I got on. The application process has been a good experience, and it was helpful to see the kind of feedback I received. To my surprise I got offered an interview at Troon Primary as a Senior Practitioner and got the job!

I was delighted to get the Senior Practitioner role. It's a great opportunity and the knowledge I'll gain from that experience will really help with the degree. I'm looking forward to the challenge.

I have moved around due to the nature of the temporary contracts, but every time I've moved, it's been a step up the ladder. Who knows what the future will bring but I am certain that I want to continue progressing in my chosen career."

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Steven Hardie

Start here
HNC Early Years

Go anywhere
Early Years Practitioner at
Dundonald Nursery

"I took the opportunity to change my career when the store I managed was closing down. That's when I first thought of working in Early Years, so I went to study HNC Early Years at Ayrshire College.

There's no average day working in Early Years, every day is different! As far as jobs go, it's a lot of fun. Spending time with children is brilliant.

One of the more rewarding aspects of the job, is getting to see the progression that the children are making. I love the fact that the staff in the nursery are helping them to get there; I don't think there are many jobs like it.

I enjoy going to work, and I'm glad that I can say that. I work as part of a fantastic team, we all work really well together.

For someone who is thinking of working in Early Years, I'd say go for it. Personally, I love my job. I've not looked back, it's definitely the best thing I ever did."

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Jane Cairnie

Start here
PDA Education Support Assistant

Go anywhere
Self-employed Childminder

‘Before I attended College, I was a hairdresser for 24 years. As a mum of three boys and looking for a career change, I decided to go down the route of working with children.

For me, all the knowledge and understanding I’ve gained at College has been so helpful. It’s really given me an understanding of the

importance of children’s experiences as they grow up.

I would recommend going to College 100%. Doing the course has set me up on my career path for the rest of my life. I’m now a full-time Childminder and work with children of all ages, including working with some children with additional needs. I absolutely love my job, and I’m so glad I made the change, it’s definitely been worth it.”

▶ **Start your story here**

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“The door is open to dynamic, enthusiastic people to pursue an educational career that is, for me, one filled with awe and wonderment when you look at the world through the lens of a young child!”

Claire Warden
Founder of Mindstretchers,
an education consultancy
in Scotland



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Build a brighter future

We're looking for people who are caring, creative, and full of energy and ideas. There are plenty of jobs out there and lots of potential for career development, learning and, perhaps most importantly, there's a whole load of job satisfaction to be had.

Apply for one of our Early Years courses and help to shape lives and shape your career.

Study in one of our simulated nursery classroom suites and experience a realistic working nursery environment.

Choose from:

Childhood Practice

Additional Support Needs

Early Education and
Childcare

CPD for Existing
Practitioners



Why choose Early Education and Childcare?

- You work in an enjoyable, vibrant sector.
- It's a rapidly expanding industry with varied employment opportunities.
- We have fantastic industry contacts meaning you get lots of relevant work experience.

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Are you right for the job?

- You have good organisational skills to plan the children's day and respond to their different needs.
- You've got the ability to inspire and enthuse young children.
- You're energetic, resourceful, responsible, patient and have a caring nature.

What are employers looking for?

- Superb interpersonal skills, such as patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations.
- Collaborative skills to work productively with colleagues.
- Someone who is creative, engaging and able to develop strong relationships with pupils.

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Are you interested in working in Early Education and Childcare?

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“By 2020, we need up to 11,000 new recruits working in Early Learning and Childcare across Scotland. Could you be one of them?”

www.childcarecareersscotland.scot

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Start Here

Early Years provision has changed significantly over the years. Today effective early learning and childcare experiences are recognised as playing a key role in future life chances and achievement.

Ayrshire College will take into account your qualifications and life experience to place you on a course that's right for you.

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Go Anywhere

Early Years courses at Ayrshire College introduce you to the knowledge and understanding you'll need to work successfully in childcare. It will also develop your practical skills for working with children in various jobs across the sector, including Additional Support Needs roles.

You can follow an academic path to more advanced level courses at Ayrshire College, or you could go to university. Our HND Childhood Practice students can go into year 3 of the Childhood Studies degree at UWS.

Other university degree options include Primary Education Teaching, Social Work, and Community Learning and Development.

Please check with each university for their articulation requirements prior to your UCAS application. Entry is subject to availability of places and meeting entry requirements, other options may also be available.

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