

**Guide to...**

**Teacher Training**

**for Early Years**

**in England**



# INTRODUCTION

As an Early Years Teacher, you will be a specialist in childhood development for very young children between the ages of birth and five years. Teaching is often delivered through exploratory play.

Early Years Teachers may work in a variety of settings such as day nurseries, preschools, and playgroups. You will be trained to deliver the [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#). The EYFS sets standards for the learning, development, and care of very young children, which all Ofsted-registered early years' providers must follow. You can also work within reception or foundation stages in schools including independent schools, academies, and free schools. However, if you want to work as an Early years teacher in a local authority maintained school, you will need to follow the same teacher training route as for primary teaching (see [Prospects Primary Teacher Job Profile](#)).

Read more about Early Years Teaching:

- [Get into Teaching: Become an Early Years Teacher](#)
- [Prospects Early Years Teacher Job Profile](#)
- [Department for Education Early Years Career Progression Map](#)



# GETTING QUALIFIED AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To become an early year's teacher, you will need to gain Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS). This qualification applies to working in most settings, however, if you specifically want to work in a local maintained school as an early years teacher, you will need to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) which is a different qualification to EYTS (see [Prospects Primary Teacher Job Profile](#)).

To gain EYTS, you will need to complete an Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) course. The EYITT training aims to ensure the highest quality training.

EYITT courses may be offered by universities or by an accredited training provider. To secure a place on a EYITT course, you will need a degree and at least GCSE grade C/4 (or equivalent) in English, mathematics, and science, but do check directly with individual course providers. For a list of accredited training providers see the [Department for Education accredited providers list](#).

Qualification and entry requirements differ between UK countries, so do your research if you want to train to teach early years in [Wales](#), [Northern Ireland](#) or [Scotland](#).

# TRAINING COURSES AND FUNDING

## GRADUATE EARLY YEARS TEACHER TRAINING

- This route is for graduates who wish to study over 12 months full-time through an academic-based route with significant time spent on placement across a range of early years settings. This route is particularly suited to graduates with limited early years' experience.
- This route is commonly provided by universities.
- The Department for Education provide funding to course providers to cover course fees and some trainees may be eligible to receive a training bursary.

## GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT-BASED EARLY YEARS TEACHER TRAINING

- This is a one-year part-time route for graduates working in an early years setting and who wish to become qualified early years teachers by gaining EYTS.
- The Department for Education provide funding to course providers in the form of a training grant. Funding is also available to cover an employers' costs while their staff undertake training.
- If you wish to follow the employment-based route, you will need to speak to your early years employer and get their agreement.

## UNDERGRADUATE EARLY YEARS TEACHER TRAINING

- This is a full-time undergraduate degree in an early childhood-related subject that leads to EYTS.
- Courses take three to four years.
- Tuition fee loans are available through Student Finance.

## GRADUATE 'ASSESSMENT ONLY' TRAINING

- This route is for graduates with experience of working with children from birth to 5 years old who can demonstrate the early years teaching standards via an assessment process.
- Assessment usually takes three months to complete.
- This route is self-funded.



# MAKING APPLICATIONS

- There is currently no centralised system for searching and applying for EYITT courses.
- Start by reviewing the [Department of Education EYITT Accredited Providers List](#). Providers are listed by region.
- Use the list to identify providers that interest you and click on the providers website for further information about their training courses. Applications are made directly to accredited providers, so each provider will have information on their course page about entry requirements and how to apply.
- Do follow the providers application guidance, but as part of your application you will need to demonstrate:
  - Your motivations, suitability and commitment to teaching early years.
  - Your enthusiasm about working with the age group you wish to teach, drawing on relevant experience where possible.
  - That you have thoroughly researched teaching in an early years setting and you are sure that it will suit you.
  - That you have the skills and qualities necessary to become a good early years' teacher.

# TOP TIPS!

- Research the skills required for teaching in an early years setting by reading the [Prospects Early Years Teacher Job Profile](#).
- Consider gaining experience in an early years setting, as this will help you make an informed decision about your career choice.
- Research the [Early Years Foundation Stage](#) including the [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) Statutory Framework](#).
- Consult training provider's course information webpages to find out more about how courses are structured and what attributes or qualities they are looking for in applicants, as this will help you with making effective applications.



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Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this resource guide is accurate but we recommend that you check all details carefully.

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