

People who are interested in a career in early years and childcare really like to hear about the sector from people who are already working in it!

Here are some of the things that they like to know:

- How you got into early years and childcare
- Why you love working in early years and childcare
- What the most rewarding things about being an early years and childcare practitioner are
- Why a day nursery / pre-school / out of school setting suits your lifestyle
- What it is like working in a forest school / farm school / beach school
- What you love about being a childminder
- What it is about being a childminder that suits your lifestyle
- The experience of men in early years and childcare
- What it is like being an early years and childcare apprentice
- What it's like being an Early Years Teacher (EYTS / EYPS) or graduate leader
- What it is like being a manager in an early years and childcare setting

Here are some examples to get you going... (taken from the ['Do something big'](#) national campaign):-

Early years encourages autonomy and freedom in learning, and childminding allows me approach early education by following each child's particular interests. I am able to shape the activities in ways that I know children will respond positively to.

I chose to work in wraparound childcare because I specifically wanted to work with school-age children and like the variety that a holiday club offers. I typically work before and after school in term time, which is great because it leaves my days free. And then I offer full-time childcare during school holidays.

When I first started, I felt like all the eyes were on me, because I'm a male in childcare. I had that in my mind, like, are people going to judge me? Now, I'm confident and comfortable and all those thoughts have completely gone.

At first, my friends commented on how I was "just" looking after children but there is so much more to the role than that, and I feel the status of our work needs raising.

Men considering a career in the early years need to know that they will be welcomed with open arms – remember you're there for the children who aren't judgemental, so you just need to be yourself.

Watching the children grow and develop as they get older, and seeing how much they progress in their development and communication skills is a real privilege. I enjoy focused activities with the children as I get to witness them having fun and see the new sparks of interest.

I enjoy being my own boss as a childminder. I can make my own decisions, choose my working hours and holidays. I'm also very proud of growing my business, knowing that families actively seek me out because they trust me to care for their

children is a huge endorsement and makes me feel as though I must be doing something right.