

## **Transcript of Ebonie talking about being a nursery nurse**

“My name’s Ebonie Dailey and I am a Nursery Nurse and I work for St. Albans children’s centre. From a young age I’ve always wanted to work with children because I had younger siblings and younger family and I have always been that caring, nurturing person that wanted to do that.

My job involves greeting the children when they first come in, sometimes they might be a bit upset and they need a little cuddle and reassurance. Then we’ll have free play time where we can play either in the sunshine room or out in the garden and choose lots of different activities and then we’ll have a focus group activity which lasts for about twenty minutes where we’ll work on the area of the foundation stage curriculum, learning lots of nice and exciting things that they really enjoy to do.

The children actually come in from as little as three months old but I work in the nursery school where the children come in after they’ve turned three and they leave the term before they’re five years old to go on to big school. You’ll be in charge of around ten children, you’ll be their key worker, focussing on their development and seeing how you can promote it.

We do lots of creative play which covers lots of different things such as role play or they can do painting and play-dough and also dancing, we love dancing.

When I left school I completed my GCSEs and I think you needed four A-C’s and then I was able to go on to complete the DCE which is a diploma in childcare and education and that was the equivalent of two A-Levels and that allowed me to do the foundation degree. Now that I’ve done that I’ll be able to finish my degree hopefully in the future.

Young in Herts helped me out lots, I got loads of support with funding especially for the course because that was one of the things that put me off about actually going to do the foundation degree because it was quite expensive but Young in Herts gave me some funding towards it and that helped me along with my studies. I also got a laptop that I was able to use and some stuff like that so that was really good.

If you have any problems while you’re training or studying or even if you’re thinking about training you can always give them a call anytime and find out any information that you need to and whenever I’ve spoken to them they’ve always been really helpful and answered any questions I’ve had.

We are constantly working with the parents and they do have a lot of trust in us obviously they must do because they leave their children with us everyday and we always reassure them if they’re ever worried about anything and we also invite them in if they want to come in and play with the children with us or they can come in for coffee mornings where they can meet each other and talk about nursery and how they think their children are getting on.

I think I just go with the flow and I'm just like a big kid myself really. I think you have to be quite patient and caring, but at the same time quite spontaneous and exciting and always wanting to have fun basically. I think it's the enjoyment of the job, working with the children, getting down to their level and being able to interact with them and help them to learn and to be strong independent children.

To be a nursery nurse you need to have a few qualities. You need to be kind and caring; you need to be responsible definitely because you're looking after lots of children. You need to be exciting and funny and just wanting to have fun and play and help engage the children with their learning. Working with children is quite a demanding job because you're always needed; they're always calling your name out and asking you questions constantly. I think you need to be really dedicated if you want a job in childcare but I think the rewards are definitely the best, they're amazing. “