

Guide to...

Teacher Training for Early Years

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Introduction

As an Early Years Teacher, you'll be a specialist in early childhood development, trained to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): <https://www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage>. The EYFS sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old.

All schools and Ofsted-registered early years' providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes. Teaching is often done through play, where the child learns about subjects and other people through games.

Read more about Early Years Teaching here:

- <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/become-an-early-years-teacher>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/early-years-teacher>
- <https://www.cache.org.uk/media/1417/dfc-career-pathway-map-v17.pdf> (Dept for Education Early Years Career Progression Map)

Please note – if you are interested in teaching children from age 3 upwards (reception), you are also advised to consider primary teaching. Please see the Bath Spa Careers '**Guide to Teacher Training in England (Primary & Secondary)**' on the Bath Spa University Careers webpage.

Getting qualified and entry requirements

Getting qualified

- You will need to complete an Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) course (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-initial-teacher-training-a-guide-for-providers>), and demonstrate that you have met the Teachers' Standards (Early Years), leading to the award of Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS), which is deemed to be equivalent to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) for teaching in maintained schools.
- The training route aims to ensure the highest quality training and to encourage more high-calibre graduates into early years education.
- Training may be led by a Higher Education Institution or by a school or nursery in partnership with an accredited training provider.
- The Department for Education has a list of accredited providers: www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-initial-teacher-training-itt-providers/early-years-initial-teacher-training-itt-providers.

EYITT Entry Requirements

- As is the case for Primary Teaching, in order to apply for EYITT courses you will need a degree and at least GCSE grade C /4 (or equivalent) in English, maths and science.
- You will also need to pass the Professional Skills Tests in numeracy and literacy (<http://sta.education.gov.uk/>).

Different types of training course & funding

There are five main ways for EYTS to be awarded. Funding is currently available from the National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) for 2 of these routes.

Graduate entry mainstream (full-time)

- This route is for graduates who wish to study over 12 months full-time through an academic-based route, although significant time is spent on placement across a range of early years settings.
- It would prepare graduates with little to no experience for teaching in this sector, and is comparable to studying for a PGCE.
- The NCTL are currently offering a grant of £7,000 to cover course fees and bursaries of up to £5,000 for graduates with a first class degree, or £4,000 for graduates with a 2:1 degree.

Graduate entry employment based (part-time)

- This route is for graduates who are working in an early years setting and who wish to become qualified early years teachers, by gaining EYTS.
- Training typically takes place over a 1 year period and a £14,000 incentive from NCTL is available to employers, covering the cost of up to £7,000 tuition fees and £7,000 of other costs incurred by your employer, e.g. supply cover.
- If you wish to follow the employment-based route, you'll need to speak to your early years setting employer and get their agreement.

SCITT (School Centered Initial Teacher Training in Early Years)

- This route is for graduates who wish to train within a school or nursery setting.
- If you are interested in applying via this route, you should contact one of the lead organisations responsible for delivering this option: www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-direct-early-years-initial-teacher-training-lead-organisations/school-direct-early-years-initial-teacher-training-itt-lead-organisations

Undergraduate Entry

- This route can be completed alongside an undergraduate degree in a related subject (subject to selection). For example, the BA (Hons) in Early Years Education.
- Funding is not available from NCTL for this route, but maybe accessible through student finance.

Assessment only

- This route is for graduates with experience of working with children from birth to 5 years old who can demonstrate the teaching standards without further training e.g. teachers from overseas.
- Assessment typically takes place over 3 months and this is a self-funded route.

Other routes

Teach First

- Teach First is an educational charity and Initial Teacher Training (ITT) provider operating in 10 regions across England and Wales.
- Whilst the main focus of Teach First is to provide teacher training for Primary and Secondary teaching, they now also offer training for Early Years (leading to QTS).
- Applications are made via the Teach First website: www.teachfirst.org.uk and are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the academic year, however, early application is recommended

Making applications

- Check application procedures directly with training providers, there is no centralised system for EYITT courses (as there is for primary and secondary training).
- As part of your application you will need to clearly 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 wherever 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.

You may find it useful to refer to the Personal Statement section of the *'Guide to Teacher Training in England (Primary & Secondary)'* as this contains further information about writing a personal statement as well as application requirements such as the Professional Skills Tests.

Top Tips

- Consult training provider's course information – do they emphasise any qualities or particular attributes that they are looking for?
- 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: www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-and-range-of-education-and-childcare-from-birth-to-5-years/supporting-pages/early-years-foundation-stage
- Research the skills required for teaching in an early years setting by analysing the job profile: www.prospects.ac.uk/early_years_teacher_entry_requirements.htm.

Further Support from Bath Spa Careers

If you would like further support from Bath Spa Careers & Employability go to bathspa.ac.uk/careers to see the ways in which you can access our service, including workshops and events, appointments and to access our extensive range of resources.

You can also contact Careers Reception on 01225 875525 or at careers@bathspa.ac.uk.

Please note that Bath Spa Careers does not endorse particular organisations.

(This guide was last updated in Summer 2019).

GET A HEAD START

We're here to help you get a great start to your career. We're open all year round, so come and visit us in the Careers Space, book an appointment, or get in touch.

Careers Space, SL.G04
Steward's Lodge

careers@bathspa.ac.uk
01225 875525

www.bathspa.ac.uk/careers

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

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