

# Education & Early Years



OVER  
**250,000**  
PEOPLE WORK IN  
THIS SECTOR

**8.2**  
MILLION  
SCHOOL PUPILS  
ACROSS THE UK

THERE ARE OVER  
**24,000**  
SCHOOLS IN THE UK

Some people say your best years are your school years; I'm sure many of you reading this will disagree. But teaching is a very rewarding career to be in, as it nurtures the talents of many young people and not only does it educate them in school subjects, it's also responsible for helping young people through the transition into adults.

## You ask us...

### WHAT'S THE EDUCATION & EARLY YEARS SECTOR ALL ABOUT?

Opportunities in the Education sector aren't just limited to teaching, which might surprise a few of you (it certainly did us!). This sector also covers early years and nursery nurses, as well as teaching assistants who assist teachers in a variety of classroom roles.

### WHAT KIND OF SALARY CAN I EXPECT TO EARN?

The starting salary for a teaching assistant is about **£12,000** per year, this may not seem like a lot but there are many opportunities for advancement. A fully qualified teacher can earn about **£35,000-£40,000** per year – however that will increase as you become more experienced.

### WHAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD I BE WORKING IN?

Normally you'll be working in schools and sometimes nurseries – depending on the area that you decided to specialise in. In a primary school the atmosphere will often be more relaxed but in a secondary school it won't be quite so informal – you might have to wear a tie! If you are working in Ofsted then you will be going into schools and deciding whether they are performing well or badly.

### HOW DOES THIS SECTOR COMPARE TO OTHERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

Last year **£56.27 billion** went into the Education sector and a lot of that would have gone to the teachers and other education workers. Schools in the South of England tend to gain more funding due to the sheer number of students they cater for, but with the education sector changing all the time, expect this unbalance to even out over the coming years.

### WHERE IS THE WORK MOST CONCENTRATED?

Well, education usually takes place in schools, which you already know having been there for some time already! Bigger cities and towns have plenty of schools both in the centre and in 'catchment' areas, which cover outlying villages and areas outside the built up areas. However there are many nurseries and crèches all over the UK as well where you can work in the education sector too.

# Careers Choices

Education and Early Years careers are all about helping and teaching children and young people everything from the classic three times tables to the intricacies of intermolecular structures. Teachers, examiners, pastoral support workers and teaching assistants all work towards educating their students to achieve the best possible grades. Whether it's twenty out of twenty in a spelling test or an A\* at GCSE level, it's the educators who are responsible for shaping the futures of their pupils. Here are some of the popular roles that you can expect to find in the Education and Early Years sector.



## TEACHING ASSISTANT

This job is all about working with children; you have to support teachers in the classroom and help children with their educational and social development, both in and out of the classroom. Teaching Assistants work for about 30-40 hours per week and your starting salary is usually about **£12,000** although that will increase as you gain additional qualifications.

## NURSERY NURSE

If you're a warm, caring person who wants to work with babies, then this is probably the career for you. Good communication skills, a fair approach and a responsible attitude are also required. Your working hours will vary and often include shifts to cover early starts and late finishes to meet the needs of parents. The starting salary for junior nursery nurses can be between **£10,000** and **£12,000** a year; this will increase as you become more experienced.

## PLAY WORKER

This job involves you to plan, organize and take part in play and leisure activities for 4 to 16 year olds. Getting the balance right between responsibility

and fun is paramount here, but helping young people have fun is one of the most rewarding careers you can be in. Full-time playworkers can earn between **£12,000** and **£20,000** a year. Managerial staff can earn between **£25,000** and **£30,000** a year. If you work part-time then may be paid an hourly rate. Most playwork is in the evenings, at weekends and during school holidays.

## PASTORAL WORKER

This job involves working with schools, pupils and families to find solutions to problems that pupils may have. Good listening skills and a calm and sympathetic approach, the ability to build good working relationships with pupils, parents and teachers and an understanding of the law relating to education and childcare are essential in being a Pastoral Worker. You will normally earn around **£20,000** to over **£30,000** a year, depending on your qualifications and amount of experience. However visits to students' homes and other schools are common. You will often be expected to have or be working towards a qualification in social work.

## Where to begin

### APPRENTICESHIPS

If you are 16 or over then you can enter an Apprenticeship, which would teach you the skills that you need while you work, you'll also earn a salary. On your Apprenticeship, half of your time will be spent doing the job and the other half will be spent learning in the classroom. Listed below are the Apprenticeship frameworks for this sector, which when completed will give you a Level 2 qualification in the form of a BTEC, Diploma or NVQ:

**Early Years Worker • Care Worker • Assistant Youth Support Worker • Assistant Playworker • Play Centre Assistant**

### ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

These are equivalent to A-Levels and can usually be joined after you complete the associated Intermediate Apprenticeship. Advanced Apprenticeships are perfect for those who want a practical role as they learn while

gaining relevant employment experience. People with Advanced Apprenticeships often progress up the career ladder faster than those without, because the skills that they learn are more suited to management or supervisory roles. Here are some of the Apprenticeship Frameworks for this sector, completing any of these will result in a Level 3 qualification such as a BTEC, NVQ or Diploma.

**Playworker • Nursery Nurse/Worker • Nursery Teaching Assistant • Youth Support Worker**

### A-LEVELS

A-Levels are the most popular route into University and are sought after by most employers. The A-Levels that you take should depend on which area of teaching you want to specialize in, for example if you want to be a History Teacher, then you should take a History A-Level. **English Language • English Literature • Maths • Biology • Physics • Chemistry • French • Geography • German • History • Other Subjects**

### FOUNDATION DEGREES

A foundation degree combines the University lifestyle with practical, hands on work. It's basically a cross between an Apprenticeship and an Honours Degree. They are both used as gateway qualifications to a full time Degree because they count towards the first two years of your Honours Degree. Foundation Degrees normally take about two years to complete and you will be in both the work place and on the university site. There are lots of Foundation Degrees available in this sector, such as **Teaching Support and Primary School Teaching. Working with Children: Education and Wellbeing • Teaching and Learning Support**

### COLLEGE COURSES

A College course is another good way to get into the Education sector. To find out more about these courses, have a look at [www.careersworld.co.uk](http://www.careersworld.co.uk). **CW**