

# Early Years Lead Practitioner v1.1

☆ Level 5    £ £9,000    🗓 24 months

## 1. What the role entails

The Early Years Lead Practitioner (EYLP) can be found in a range of educational settings including day nurseries, playgroups, nursery schools, pre-schools, kindergartens, primary schools, hospitals, social care educational settings, out-of-school environments and local authority provision. The EYLP is a proactive and influential practitioner, working directly with children and skilfully leading day-to-day practice at an operational level. As an active practitioner, the EYLP is an effective role model of play-based learning, supporting others to develop their own practice. They are highly skilled professionals who take an operational lead for the care, learning and development of all young children within their care, adapting to individual needs and providing inclusive and holistic provision. The EYLP also engages with sector developments at both a local and national level, with a strong commitment to developing their own professional and educational competencies.

In their daily work, the EYLP interacts with children from birth to eight years, families, practitioners, other professionals and appropriate agencies. They are responsible for supporting the quality of learning and development within their educational setting and typically lead on the operational aspects of provision. This can include responsibility for other practitioners or for specific areas such as:

- communication and language
- planning and assessment
- forest school
- physical activity and nutrition.

## 2. On-programme

Apprentices will typically spend 24 months on-programme and undertake the minimum required off-the-job training as per the apprenticeship funding rules. Apprentices must spend at least 8 months on-programme. Before entering Gateway, the apprentice must complete the following on-programme requirements:

- English and maths qualifications, if required (see DfE apprenticeship funding rules for full details)
- a Portfolio of Evidence to underpin the Professional Discussion.

## 3. Gateway requirements

The decision to take an apprentice through Gateway is made between the employer, Independent Training Provider (ITP) and the apprentice. The apprentice should only enter Gateway once the employer is content that the apprentice is working at or above the level of the occupational standard.

The apprentice must also have completed all the on-programme elements before they enter Gateway, including submitting a Portfolio of Evidence to underpin the Professional Discussion.

## 4. End-point assessment

The end-point assessment (EPA) for Early Years Lead Practitioner consists of two assessment methods:

### Observation with Questioning

In the Observation with Questioning, an Independent End-Point Assessor (IEPA) observes the apprentice in their workplace and asks questions. The apprentice completes their day-to-day duties under normal working conditions. Simulation is not allowed. It gives the apprentice the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) mapped to this assessment method. The total duration of the Observation with Questioning assessment method is 1 hour and 30 minutes. The total time for the Observation element is 1 hour. The time allocated for Questioning is 30 minutes.

**Grading:** grading will be measured as fail, pass or distinction.

### Professional Discussion underpinned by a Portfolio of Evidence

In the Professional Discussion, an IEPA and apprentice have a formal two-way conversation. It gives the apprentice the opportunity to demonstrate the KSBs mapped to this assessment method. The Professional Discussion must be structured to give the apprentice the opportunity to demonstrate the KSBs mapped to this assessment method to the highest available grade. The Professional Discussion must last for 1 hour and 30 minutes.

**Grading:** grading will be measured as fail, pass or distinction.

## 5. Grade aggregation table

Observation with Questioning	Professional Discussion underpinned by a Portfolio of Evidence	Final Grade
Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Distinction	Pass
Distinction	Pass	Merit
Distinction	Distinction	Distinction

A fail in any assessment method will result in a fail overall.

## 6. Completion and certification

Once the IEPA verifies the apprentice has successfully completed all EPA methods, NCFE will activate certification. Working with the apprenticeship certificate issuing authority, we will ensure the apprentice receives their certificate.

## 7. What next?

Following on from your apprenticeship, typical job titles can include deputy manager, lead practitioner, early years coordinator and early years support worker among many others. It may also be possible to progress to higher level apprenticeships such as the Level 6 Early Years Teacher (EYTS).

### Why choose NCFE?

We are an approved Assessment Organisation (AO) specialising in EPA delivery across health, education, social care, business, active leisure and digital apprenticeship standards. NCFE offers flexible and reliable EPA solutions supported by sector expertise, guidance documents and proactive service and support.