

Early Years Practitioner

① What the role entails

The broad purpose of the Early Years Practitioner (EYP) is to work and interact directly with children on a day-to-day basis, supporting the planning and delivery of activities, purposeful play opportunities and educational programmes within the ethos of the setting. An EYP works as part of a professional team, ensuring the welfare and care of the children under the guidance and supervision of an Early Years Educator, teacher, or other suitably qualified professional in the early years workforce.

They will be responsible for supporting child-initiated and adult-led activities based around the needs and interests of each individual child, supporting children's learning and working as part of a team to ensure each child feels safe and secure. An EYP will also support the observation and assessment of each child, and contribute to their learning experiences whilst assisting with the care needs of the individual child.



② On-programme assessment

Full time apprentices will spend a minimum of 12 months on-programme before entering Gateway, with a minimum of 20% off-the-job training. Prior to taking the end-point assessment (EPA), apprentices must achieve:

- Level 2 Early Years Practitioner Qualification
- A completed Portfolio of Evidence
- English and maths at Level 1
- Attempts at Level 2 English and maths by sitting Functional Skills tests.



③ Gateway requirements

The EPA period should only start once the employer is satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard and they are deemed to have achieved occupational competence. In making this decision, the employer may take advice from the apprentice's Independent Training Provider (ITP), but the decision must ultimately be made solely by the employer. The apprentice must have achieved all of the required on-programme elements before they enter Gateway, including the completion of a Portfolio of Evidence that will underpin the Professional Discussion.



④ End-point assessment

The EPA for Early Years Practitioner contains 2 methods as outlined below:

Professional Discussion underpinned by a Portfolio of Evidence:

A two-way discussion, lasting a maximum of 90 minutes, which involves both the Independent End-Point Assessor (IEPA) and the apprentice actively listening and participating in a formal conversation. It gives the apprentice the opportunity to make detailed and proactive contributions to confirm their competency across the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) mapped to this method. Questioning will focus on the apprentice's depth and breadth of KSBs, with the apprentice using their Portfolio of Evidence to support their responses as necessary.

Grading Weighting: The Professional Discussion is graded as Fail, Pass or Distinction by the IEPA, and accounts for 50% of the EPA.

Knowledge Test:

The Knowledge Test is a closed book exam which features 40 multiple choice questions carrying one mark each. The assessment will test the apprentice's knowledge requirements as outlined in the standard. The apprentice will need to pass 26 of the 40 questions in order to achieve a Pass, and pass 32 in order to achieve a Distinction.

Grading Weighting: The Knowledge Test is graded Fail, Pass or Distinction, and accounts for 50% of the EPA.

⑤ Grade aggregation table

Professional Discussion	Knowledge Test	Final Grade
Fail	Fail	Fail
Fail	Pass	Fail
Fail	Distinction	Fail
Pass	Fail	Fail
Pass	Pass	Pass
Pass	Distinction	Pass
Distinction	Fail	Fail
Distinction	Pass	Pass
Distinction	Distinction	Distinction

⑥ Completion and certification

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



⑦ What next?

As well as ensuring full competency as an Early Years Practitioner, this standard provides a foundation for potential progression on to a number of career paths in the educational sector including Early Years Educator, Teaching Assistant or Teacher.

Why choose EPA Plus?

We are an approved End-Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) specialising in EPA delivery across Health, Education & Care and Business apprenticeship standards. EPA Plus offers flexible and reliable EPA solutions supported by sector expertise, guidance documents and proactive service and support.

