

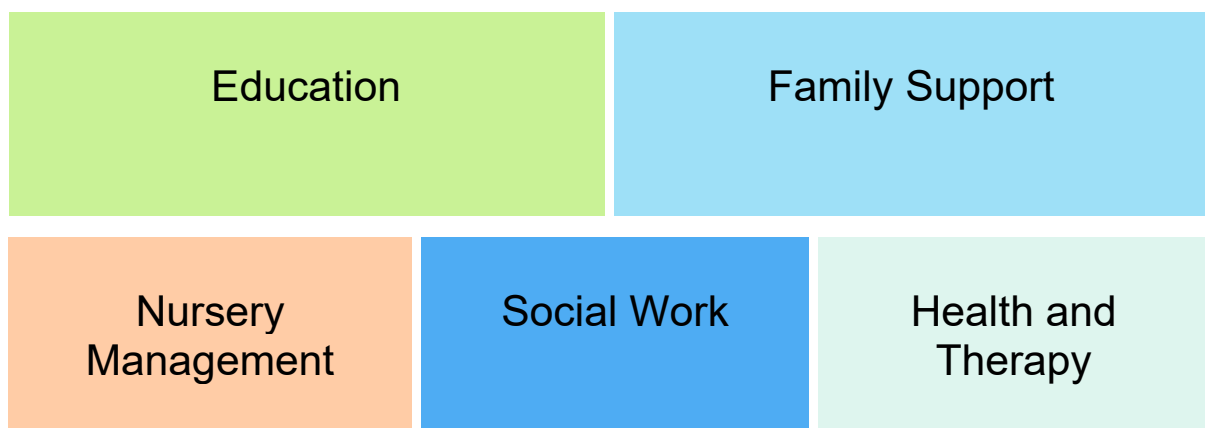
Career Routes for Early Years & Early Childhood Graduates

If you are studying an Early Years or Early Childhood qualification at university and you are interested in working directly with children, there is a range of careers that can use the knowledge and skills developed throughout your degree programme.

Some opportunities may be open to graduates, but most will require prior experience in the sector. If you have previous work experience or have undertaken placements or volunteering, you may be able to directly enter some of the careers below. In some cases, you may need to gain broader experience prior to moving into your chosen role, and/or gain a further postgraduate qualification.

This leaflet explains in more detail career opportunities which have a focus on working with children. At the end you will find links that provide more detail about many of these wider career opportunities mentioned in the diagram below.

Career Routes for Early Years & Early Childhood Graduates



Further information about the jobs in this leaflet can be seen at www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles

Also see the [Working with Children and Young People](#) leaflet for information about roles in education and support for a wider range of age groups.

Education

Primary teacher: As a primary school teacher, you'll develop schemes of work and lesson plans in line with curriculum objectives. You will facilitate learning by establishing a relationship with pupils, and by your organisation of learning resources and the classroom learning environment. Various training routes are available, including PGCE at a university or within a school. See the Careers leaflet [Routes into Teaching](#) for further information.

Early Years teacher: As an EYT, you'll work with children aged 0-5 in various settings such as nurseries, preschools and reception classes. As a graduate specialising in children's learning specifically for the 0-5's you may lead practice in a classroom, nursery or special needs unit. There are several routes to EYTS, see [Get into Teaching](#) for further information.

Educational Psychology: Educational psychologists help children or young people who are experiencing problems that hinder their successful learning and participation in school, including a range of emotional and social problems or learning difficulties. You will need a degree in psychology and a BPS accredited Doctorate in Educational Psychology (see Psychology Courses). If you do not have an accredited psychology degree you can first complete a BPS accredited conversion course, such as the Psychology MSc course here at the University of Worcester.

Educational Mental Health Practitioner: Educational mental health practitioners (EMHPs) work across education and healthcare to provide mental health support for children and young people in schools and colleges. You will need experience with children and in mental health and will have to complete a one year training course to qualify. Look out for 'Trainee Education Mental Health Practitioner' positions on www.jobs.nhs.uk/

Learning Support: There are many roles available in schools to support the learning of children and young people, from general classroom support to working with children with specific learning needs, play work, behaviour mentor, and inclusion work. Look out for job titles such as Learning Mentor, Inclusion Support Practitioner, Safeguarding and Pastoral Lead, Well-being Coordinator, or Graduate Teaching Assistant. For many roles, you are required to demonstrate relevant experience and a level 3 qualification.

Further information and job vacancies

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/> for information about training as a teacher
<https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education> for options and training
www.eteach.com for teaching jobs nationally
www.gov.uk/find-teaching-job for teaching and education jobs
www.wmjjobs.co.uk for jobs in the West Midlands

Family Support

As a Family Support Worker, you'll be working with families as well as with children, and you will probably be expected to work with young people up to the age of 18. You will offer practical help and emotional support to families experiencing short or long-term difficulties. You may be employed by local authorities' social services departments or charitable organisations, but in Worcestershire, Family Support Workers are often employed by Worcestershire County Council, or directly by some schools. Job titles to look out for include Family Support Practitioner, Home School Link Coordinator, Parent Support Adviser, and Early Intervention Worker.

Most jobs will ask for a level 3 qualification although some will ask for a degree. You will be expected to demonstrate experience with vulnerable families and children, often in multi-agency teams and may also be expected to have experience of a parenting programme.

Further information and job vacancies

www.wmjobs.co.uk for jobs in the West Midlands. Search on key words such as 'family'.

www.charityjob.co.uk for charity and third sector jobs nationally

www.jobsgopublic.com for local authority and some third sector jobs nationally

www.lgjobs.com for local government jobs nationally

Social Work

Social workers support individuals and their families through difficult times and ensure that vulnerable people, including children and adults, are safeguarded from harm. Their role is to help improve outcomes in people's lives.

Social workers can work in both statutory and non-statutory roles. In a statutory position, their role is to adhere to the laws that exist to protect the vulnerable clients that they work with, and ensuring that children are kept safe is a large part of this.

In non-statutory roles, social workers still work with a similar client group but are not specifically responsible for enforcing the law. This can include roles in charities such as Barnardo's or Action for Children, with vulnerable groups such as care leavers, or for Fostering and Adoption bodies.

Social workers are also employed by Cafcass, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service, which represents children in family court cases in England. They put children's needs first, making sure that children's voices are heard, and that decisions are made in their best interests. Family Court Advisers are asked by the court to work with families and then advise the court on the best interests of the children involved.

Training for social work after an undergraduate degree involves taking a Masters or post-graduate diploma in social work at a university such as Worcester, or by one of the fast-track routes such as Step Up or Frontline. In some places social work apprenticeships are offered. For further information about training routes see the leaflet [Getting into Social Work](#).

Intermediaries for Justice: enable vulnerable witnesses, suspects and defendants to give evidence to police and the courts. Their primary aim is to facilitate the communication of children and vulnerable people with a range of justice professionals. They tend to be established professionals in their fields and are often drawn from social workers, teachers, mental health professionals, or speech therapists.

Further information and job vacancies

www.basw.co.uk

www.cafcass.gov.uk

<https://www.intermediaries-for-justice.org/intermediary-role>

www.charityjob.co.uk

Nursery Management

Nursery managers run early years' childcare centres, providing day care for babies and young children from birth to 5 years.

You will usually need a full and relevant level 3 qualification in childcare, level 2 qualifications in English and Maths (including functional skills), and experience of working with young children, and supervising or managing staff. Some nurseries may prefer you to have a degree or Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS). You could work your way up from a nursery worker role to a room leader or '3rd in charge' role to get supervisory experience.

Further information and job vacancies

www.eyalliance.org.uk/

www.cypnow.co.uk/

www.nurseryworldjobs.co.uk/jobs/nursery-manager/

www.daynurseries.co.uk/

Health and Therapy Job Roles

Play Therapist: Play therapists usually work with children aged three to eleven using play as a communication tool to understand their world and to help them deal with emotional distress and trauma. You will work with children and their families on a number of difficult life issues and experiences.

You will need to get a relevant postgraduate qualification to qualify as a play therapist and to register with the British Association of Play Therapists (BAPT) or Play Therapy UK (PTUK). Both these organisations provide a register of qualified play therapists to employers and families and ensure practice standards are met across the industry.

The two qualification routes are:

- MA in play therapy practice recognised by the BAPT from the University of Roehampton, University of South Wales or Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. For more information see BAPT Play Therapy Training.

- Master's qualifications are offered by PTUK via the Academy of Play and Child Psychotherapy (APAC). APAC also provides a range of postgraduate certificate and diploma-level courses that can be taken towards the Master's degree. To find out more see [APAC Training](#).

To get a place on a course you'll need a degree in a subject related to child development, and some relevant experience of working with children in a developmental role.

Further information and job vacancies

www.bapt.info

<https://playtherapy.org.uk/>

Health Play specialist: Health play specialists use play as a therapeutic tool to help children understand their own or their family's illness and treatment. They work largely in hospitals but also in hospices, community settings, or sometimes the child's home. You would need a foundation degree in healthcare play specialism, a two-year part-time course, which runs most locally at colleges in Nuneaton and Cardiff. Registration with the Society of Health Play Specialists (SHPS) is also a requirement.

Further information and job vacancies

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/

<https://sohps.org.uk/>

Family Therapist: A family therapist helps people in a close relationship to help each other. Through group and individual interventions, they enable children, family members, couples and others to explore difficult thoughts and emotions safely, understand each other's experiences and views, and make changes in their relationships and their lives. The Association for Family Therapy and Systemic Practice in the UK (AFT) provides training at three levels: foundation, intermediate, and qualifying level as a Family and Systemic Psychotherapist.

In addition, it would be expected that you have relevant experience with families, children or in mental health or a similar field.

Further information and job vacancies

www.aft.org.uk/view/index.html

Child Psychotherapist: As a child and adolescent psychotherapist, you'll offer psychoanalytic treatment to children and young people with emotional or behavioural difficulties,

Training is offered at schools accredited by the Association of Child Psychotherapists (ACP)

www.childpsychotherapy.org.uk

You will need an honours degree (or equivalent) and substantial experience of working with children and young people in settings such as social care, health and education. Before starting clinical training, you'll undertake pre-clinical studies and complete a course of observational psychoanalytic studies at postgraduate diploma, masters or equivalent level. This usually takes

Careers & Employability

www.worc.ac.uk/careers

around two to three years. You'll then complete a four-year clinical training scheme, which covers theory, technique and clinical practice under supervision. For the clinical work, you'll be based in an NHS CAMHS team or other suitable setting.

Further information and job Vacancies

<http://childpsychotherapy.org.uk/>

www.bacp.co.uk

<http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>

Speech and Language Therapist: As a speech and language therapist (SLT), you will treat babies, children and adults who have various levels of speech, language and communication problems, or difficulties in swallowing, drinking or eating. Although speech therapists can specialise in working with children, you would be expected to work with a full range of clients throughout your training.

As a graduate, you may take an accelerated two-year postgraduate course in order to qualify. Applications for postgraduate study are made directly to the relevant institution. For a list of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, see the [Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists \(RCSLT\)](#).

Further information and job vacancies

www.rcslt.org/

www.jobs.nhs.uk/

Counsellor: Counsellors help people to explore feelings and emotions that are often related to their experiences. This allows clients to reflect on what is happening to them and consider alternative ways of doing things. Some counsellors specialise in working with children, but these opportunities are limited so it is more likely that you would be working with adults. Personal qualities are considered just as important as academic achievement, although a degree in background in psychology, social work or education can be beneficial. A qualification at level 4, accredited by British Association of Counsellors is generally considered the industry standard. This would normally be one-year full time or two years part time, with a minimum of 100 hours in a supervised placement. A list of accredited courses can be seen at www.bacp.co.uk

It is also possible to take introductory and certificate courses at further education colleges. These are recommended as they can help you to understand whether counselling could be right for you.

Further information and job vacancies

www.bacp.co.uk/

www.nationalcounsellingsociety.org/

www.psychotherapy.org.uk/

Further Information

See also the following leaflets in the Careers area in firstpoint or on the Careers website:

- [Working with Children and Young People](#)
- [Routes into Teaching](#)
- [Getting into Social Work](#)
- [Alternatives to Teaching](#)
- [Careers in Mental Health](#)
- [Careers in CAMHS & Health & Social Care](#)

If you would like to book a careers appointment to discuss your options, please visit: <https://worchester.targetconnect.net>

myCareer