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### Solway Stars Modern Apprenticeship

Solway Stars supports its 17 staff with training and development opportunities and currently has three nursery assistants undergoing Modern Apprenticeships.

“Investing in developing the skills of our workforce through apprenticeships is a vital part of how we deliver our service and all levels of the nursery team, from Childcare assistants to senior management, are undertaking some form of training.”



One of the nursery’s employees, started working towards her SVQ level 4 Social Services (Children and Young People) last year and is now a manager with responsibility for training her own team. She said “The skills I have gained through my MA have given me the tools and confidence to mentor and support my own trainees, which includes delivering training sessions to help them enhance their knowledge.”

Coming to college helped me a lot in starting me on my career pathway

### Emma Dixon Early Year Practitioner

I started college when I was 18 years old, and joined a Media Creation course, which I enjoyed, but thought I would like to work with children as a career, so I joined the NC in Early Education and Childcare course. I enjoyed this course and my work placement so much I decided this is what I wanted to do.

I went on to do the HNC in Early Years that led to my progression on the 2nd year of the BA Childhood Studies Degree. During my Degree, I spent a summer working for Dumfries and Galloway Council’s Summer Activity Scheme (I wanted to spend my summer holidays whilst studying to gain new experiences). I took up an Early Years Practitioners post with some private childcare providers before I went to work as a Support Assistant with the Speech and Language Therapy Unit. I loved working there, however due to the part time nature of the work I eventually moved to another post in Edinburgh.

Throughout this time I maintained a place on Dumfries and Galloway Council’s register for supply staff, I heard about my current position and



got the opportunity to work on a brand new initiative in Dumfries through the setup of a pilot project of working with two year olds in a nursery school setting. I am excited about working on this new development.

Coming to college helped me a lot in starting me on my career pathway. I enjoyed my time at Dumfries and Galloway College because of all the friends I made that I am still in touch with, we have all been on a journey together, we have helped each other throughout, and sometimes we even get to work together in our jobs!

The college provided a very friendly, supportive place where everyone was included and the staff were there all the time to support students. I feel that doing the NC in Early Education programme first was a good starting point for my career in Early Years, and it definitely helped in progressing through my HNC course, it was a great platform to launch my career in Childcare.

To read Emma’s full story, please visit [www.dumgal.ac.uk/news](http://www.dumgal.ac.uk/news)



# Early Learning and Childcare: A Rewarding Career

If you would like more information about early learning & childcare careers, please visit:  
[www.childcarecareersscotland.scot](http://www.childcarecareersscotland.scot)  
[www.earlyyearsscotland.org/](http://www.earlyyearsscotland.org/)  
[www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/news-events/2017/march/early-learning-childcare-sector-must-target-recruitment/](http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/news-events/2017/march/early-learning-childcare-sector-must-target-recruitment/)



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There is an **exciting opportunity** to train, or retrain for a career in the early years and childcare sector.

Dumfries and Galloway are increasing the number of nursery hours offered to pre-school aged children between now and 2020.



Want a new career?

Looking for an opportunity to develop yourself while enriching young lives?

Working in Early Learning and Childcare, supporting children to learn and develop through play is worthwhile, rewarding... and FUN! Providing the best start in life for all our children is a priority for Dumfries and Galloway Council.

From now until 2020, Dumfries and Galloway Council are recruiting motivated, child-centred, caring people to support our youngest children and families.

As part of a team, you will make a real difference to children's lives. Indoors and out, you'll nurture young children and deliver stimulating learning opportunities, encourage children to use their imaginations, be creative, develop problem-solving skills, negotiate solutions, and build relationships.

We will support you to train as you work as an Early Years Support Assistant. The knowledge, experience and skill you gain will equip you to do an invaluable job, which includes development opportunities in management roles.

## Career Progression within Early Learning and Childcare

There are various routes to developing your career within early learning and childcare. The starting level is as Trainee Early Years Support Assistant. This route allows you to work in the early years sector while undertaking training. All SVQ assessments are conducted in the workplace.

### Early Years Support Assistant Trainee

(Salary range £17,175 - £18,450)

- You will be required to register with SSSC and must have achieved / be working towards an SCQF @ Level 6/7. Please go to [www.sssc.uk.com/](http://www.sssc.uk.com/) for more information.
- To work as an effective member of an early years team delivering a flexible high quality early learning and childcare service that meets the needs of young children.

### Early Years Support Assistant

(Salary range £19,032 - £20,478)

- You will be required to register with SSSC and must have achieved / be working towards an SCQF @ Level 7. Please go to [www.sssc.uk.com/](http://www.sssc.uk.com/) for more information.
- To work as an effective member of an early years team delivering a flexible, high quality, education and care centred service that meets the needs of young children.

### Early Years Practitioner

(Salary range £23,331 - £25,116)

- You will be required to register with SSSC and hold an HNC/SCQF @ Level 7 in a Childcare Practice Award.
- To implement the curricular programme by delivering activities for young children, in line with national and local standards.
- Contribute to the planning of a curricular programme which meets the needs of the individual child, in line with National and Local standards.

### Manager

(Salary range £31,797 - £34,200)

- You will be required to hold a childhood practice degree or equivalent and register with SSSC as a Manager of Day Care Children's Services.
- Manage the nursery team ensuring the delivery of a flexible, high quality early learning and childcare, which meets the needs of young children and their families, adhering to local and national policies, guidelines and procedures, taking responsibility for the overall management of the nursery.

## Courses available:

### Social Services, Children & Young People @ SCQF Level 6

*Entry Requirements:* Must be in a relevant workplace

*Duration of course:* 18 months - 2 years

*Delivery:* Workplace assessment as EYSA trainee

*Start date:* This programme has flexible start dates

### Social Services, Children & Young People @ SCQF Level 7

*Entry Requirements:* Must be in a relevant workplace

*Duration of course:* 18 months

*Delivery:* Workplace assessment undertaken as part of existing role

*Start date:* This programme has flexible start dates

### HNC Childhood Practice @ SCQF Level 7 - Full Time

(Available: Dumfries & Stranraer Campus)

*Entry Requirements:* 2 Highers or equivalent & / or relevant experience

*Duration of course:* 1 year

*Delivery:* 2 days per week and 2 days placement. This model would suit those who are working part time in a childcare setting for 2 days per week.

*Start Date:* August 2018

### HNC Childhood Practice @ SCQF Level 7 - Day Release

(Available: Dumfries & Stranraer Campus)

*Entry Requirements:* 2 Highers or equivalent & / or relevant experience

*Duration of course:* 2 years

*Delivery:* One day per week at College and one day per week in a relevant workplace setting

(Flexible fast track options are also available - see below)

*Start date:* August 2018

### HNC Childhood Practice @ SCQF Level 7 - Evening Class / Fast Track

(Available: Dumfries Campus)

*Entry Requirements:* 2 Highers or equivalent & / or relevant experience

*Duration of course:* 1-2 years

*Delivery:* Minimum of one evening per week (may be combined with day release & / or self study)

*Start date:* August 2018

For more information, please contact:

Yeolande Davies

Early Years Curriculum Manager

T: 01387 734134 or

E: [daviesy@dumgal.ac.uk](mailto:daviesy@dumgal.ac.uk)

Come along!

### Information Evening

24th April - 5-8pm Dumfries Campus

- Stands & information
- Tours of our childcare playrooms
- Refreshments

