

Ellie Hollingworth - Work Placement Evaluation (Childcare Level 3 Year1)

I have been attending a primary school for my work placement since the end of September until the middle of March. I was welcomed by all of the staff at the school. When I arrived on the first day I was asked to wait in reception where I was then met by my placement mentor who spoke to me about what things they do. We then went into see the children and my first few days were just based on observing and learning about the things they do, the order they do things and getting to know the children.

I had a short phone call with my placement mentor around a week before my start date, where I was able to ask some questions like what time I should arrive, what is appropriate to wear at the school and what documents I would need to bring with me on the first day.

I have gained lots of skills on placement which developed over the weeks. I developed my communication skills whilst talking to other practitioners and parents and also learned to be more patient and understand as some children may need more support with certain things than other children.

Having work placement as part of the course is extremely helpful in my opinion, because you learn about things in college and can then put them into practice at placement. I've now got knowledge of how important the first few years of a child's life is in regards to their development.

Each day at placement I am set different tasks such as listening to readers, supporting children with their writing, drawing, numbers and name writing. It's made sure I'm fully involved and part of the team and they have built trust so they all know I'm capable of supporting children in whichever task is set. I particularly enjoy taking part in outdoor play, because it's great to see the children use their imagination. In the outdoor area we have items that can be used for different things so that the children can decide what they are going to build. For example, we have some large blocks that the children can use for different things, such as obstacle courses.

All of the staff at my placement were always asking me how my college assignments were going and offered support with anything I needed for my placement assessments. I have a strong relationship with my work placement staff which meant that I always felt comfortable asking them for help. Placement has made me realise that the Foundation Stage is a really important part of a child's life, this is where they will learn life skills, which has made me want to be a part of this work team more. I think the balance between college and work placement has been working really so having two days in the middle of the week really splits the week up so it doesn't feel as long, which makes it all the more enjoyable.