

CASE STUDY

Level 3 Award in Working with Babies and Young Children Under 2 Years (NCFE)

This case study explores the professional development journey of Lauren Wilcox, the Baby Room Leader at The Learning Tree Nursery, Chilcompton, Somerset.

The course ran over 10 weeks and provided an excellent opportunity to further develop her professional knowledge and skills.



What did the award help you reflect upon?

“Having held my Level 3 qualification for over 10 years, I was keen to update and expand my understanding of current research and best practice within early years education. The course offered a wealth of valuable insight into the unique needs of babies and young children during their earliest stages of development.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the programme was learning about the latest research into brain development and how early experiences shape a child's future. We explored the impact of social and economic disadvantage on babies and families, gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges some children face from the very beginning of life.

The importance of the first 1001 days was a key focus throughout the course. This critical period, from conception to a child's second birthday, lays the foundations for lifelong health, learning, and wellbeing.”

How has the course influenced your practice?

“Understanding the significance of the first 1001 days has reinforced the importance of providing nurturing, responsive, and high-quality care.

Another particularly meaningful area of learning was advocating for non-verbal babies. The course highlighted the importance of recognising and responding to babies' cues, ensuring their needs, feelings, and rights are understood and respected, even before they can communicate through words.”

What was the highlight of the course?

“As part of the course, I had the opportunity to visit St Paul's Nursery School in Bristol. Seeing high-quality interactions and exemplary early years practice in person was incredibly inspiring.

It was valuable to observe how practitioners build strong, responsive relationships with babies and young children, creating environments where children feel safe, valued, and supported to thrive. The visit brought many of the theories and research discussed throughout the course to life and provided practical examples that I can reflect on and apply within my own practice.”

“Overall, this qualification has been an amazing opportunity to build upon my existing knowledge and strengthen my practice. I am excited to apply what I have learned and continue supporting babies and young children during the most important stages of their development.

Continuing to develop professionally ensures that I can provide the very best experiences for children and their families, helping to give every child the strongest possible start in life.”

Interested in developing your practice with babies and young children?

Find out more about the Level 3 Award in Working with Babies and Young Children Under 2 Years (NCFE), including information about the next cohort, by [clicking here](#).

To express your interest or find out more, contact course leader

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