

Before applying to Alliance Learning I felt lost and unsure of what to do with my career. I attended two different colleges before this but struggled academically to sit in a classroom to learn and felt I was running out of options. Signing up to Alliance Learning, I was able to get extra support with my CV and secure interviews through their recruitment team. Through this service, I was able to successfully secure an Apprenticeship in Childcare and at the age of 17 started my employment with Gaskells Private Day Nursery.

Gaskells Private Day Nursery provides childcare for children 0-5 years. Seven years, on since starting as an Apprentice, I am now a room leader and proud to say that I am part of the Management team. This is an opportunity that I never thought I would have been given, however through determination and the support of Alliance Learning, I continue to reach my career goals . In addition to being room leader, I am also the Student Co-ordinator, which means I am responsible for ensuring the students are staying up to date with their work and are meeting the nursery standards.

The Apprenticeship has benefitted me in many ways and it's allowed me to prove to myself my capabilities. I am now 25 years old and have completed my Level 2 & 3 Apprenticeship in Childcare. Following on from this, I have successfully achieved a Level 5 Foundation Degree in Early Years Childhood Studies, all with Alliance Learning. During my journey I have also won the Children and Young People's Workforce Apprentice of the Year' at the Alliance Learning Awards Evening, something in which I am very proud of.

I think an Apprenticeship gives young people a better opportunity to progress into the real working world and it really does open up doors for a long term career. It is one thing to learn something, but it's completely different being able to use what you have learnt in reality. An Apprenticeship can provide opportunities that a classroom can't. Not only did I learn, but I also got paid for learning which was a bonus.

Alliance Learning are an amazing training provider that have continued to provide me with excellent opportunities to progress within my chosen career. Without them, I probably wouldn't be where I am now.

In the future, I would like to look into enhancing my skills even further by looking into completing the Early Years Initial Teacher Training.