

How Girlguiding volunteering sparked my passion for working with children

Kerry Robinson is a passionate childcare professional who started her journey after taking-up a Girlguiding volunteering opportunity. She is now the proud owner of nine before-and-after school clubs, three preschools, and a nursery in Leicestershire. Here she shares her inspiring story.

My Journey in Early Years Childcare

I'm Kerry Robinson, and my career in early years childcare began with a simple volunteering opportunity with Girlguiding. It was here that I discovered my true passion for working with children. From there, I became a childminder and quickly fell in love with engaging with young children. The joy I felt working with them was undeniable, and I knew this was the career for me.

When the opportunity came up to purchase and run a part-time before and after school club, I took the plunge. For eight years, I ran that after-school club, cherishing every moment as I watched the children grow and develop. As my own children transitioned to school, I realized it was time to take my business to the next level. Fast forward five years, and I now proudly own nine before and after school clubs, along with three preschools and a nursery.

My journey to this point hasn't been an easy one, but it's been incredibly rewarding. A huge part of my success is down to the apprenticeship route I chose to pursue. After completing my Level 3 qualification at college, I decided to go further and study for my Level 5 qualification through an apprenticeship. As a practical learner, I thrive on hands-on experience, and this approach really helped me achieve my goals.

The apprenticeship route allowed me to gain real-world experience while studying.

Each day brought new learning opportunities, and it wasn't just about theory—I could apply what I learned in the classroom directly to my work. Juggling full-time work and studying was challenging, but the experience was incredibly rewarding.

Studying for my Level 5 qualification gave me a deeper understanding of what it means to be a manager in the childcare sector. It helped me to understand the responsibilities I would have and gave me valuable insights into how to effectively manage a team. It also allowed me to support others who were on their own learning journey.

It wasn't all smooth sailing, of course. Balancing my full-time job and studying was tough. But the hands-on experience I gained made it all worth it. It's been incredibly rewarding to see my hard work pay off, and I'm proud of everything I've achieved.

So, what motivates me to continue in the early years sector?

The answer is simple—it's the children. Every day I get to see the joy on their faces, hear their laughter, and witness their growth and development. The early years sector is incredibly rewarding. It allows me to momentarily set aside the outside world and focus solely on the children, something that never fails to bring a smile to my face.

My story is just one example of how an apprenticeship can open doors to success. Through my apprenticeship, I not only gained the qualifications I needed but also the practical experience that has been crucial in running my business today.

If you're considering a career in early years childcare, I wholeheartedly encourage you to pursue an apprenticeship. It's a career that can offer you fulfilment and growth, and who knows—you might just end up owning your own settings one day!

If you're passionate about working with children, an apprenticeship in [early years childcare](#) can help you gain the skills and experience needed to build a rewarding and successful career. If I can do it, so can you.