

## **Level 3 Diploma for the Children & Young People's Workforce – a NEW way to upskill your staff**

The new Diploma Plus is a level 3 Diploma for the Children & Young People's Workforce but with additional units covering level 2 Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and also Employment Rights and Responsibilities.

This new apprenticeship is available to both staff you employ, and those you are willing to employ, and who work 16 hours or more a week. It is also available to childminders and registered childminders' assistants.

Study will include a partial taught syllabus together with on-the-job learning and is currently fully funded via the Early Learning & Childcare Service.

### **Have you considered an Apprentice?**

When looking for new staff, most businesses look for people who already have the skills needed to do a job - and pay the wages of a skilled worker. If you are looking to keep costs down or invest in existing workers then it could be worth exploring the possibility of an Apprentice.

### **What is an Apprenticeship?**

Apprenticeships are work-based training programmes designed around the needs of employers, which lead to nationally-recognised qualifications. You can use Apprenticeships to train both new and existing employees – with funding available for both.

Apprenticeships are designed by the Sector Skills Councils, while the National Apprenticeship Service helps to fund the training. Business representatives from the relevant industry sector work with the Sector Skills Councils to develop the course content. Because they genuinely understand your business, the training will be relevant for your industry.

### **What are the benefits of an Apprentice?**

- **Improve your bottom line**

Apprenticeships deliver real returns to your bottom line, Apprenticeships can help to improve productivity and to be more competitive. Training apprentices can also be more cost effective than hiring skilled staff, leading to lower overall training and recruitment costs.

- **Fill your skills gaps**

Apprenticeships deliver skills designed around your business needs providing the skilled workers you need for the future. They also help you develop the specialist skills you need to keep pace with the latest working practices in your sector.

- **Motivate your workforce**

Apprentices tend to be eager, motivated, flexible and loyal to the company that invested in them. Remember, an apprentice is with you because they want to be – they have made an active choice to learn on the job and a commitment to a specific career.

- **What do employers say?**

Business leaders from a range of industries and backgrounds across England give their support for Apprenticeships and voice their ambition to help grow the number of places available.

For further information on the new Diploma Plus apprenticeship scheme, please contact the Adult Learning Service's Apprenticeship Team on **07950 355 784** and the Early Learning & Childcare Service on 0116 305 6555 for a funding form.

If you would like to know more about other Apprenticeship places available, please go to [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) or visit your local college's website.