

## **We asked men about their current job role in Early Years. Here are their answers –**

### **What is your job role?**

I'm a Reception Class Teacher in an inner city Primary School.

### **How did you get into this job?**

I started working in education settings at the age of 16 whilst studying at college and worked in various roles including teaching assistant and teacher release cover. I carried on working in schools after I finished at college and continued to study at evening courses.

Eventually I decided that I wanted to fully qualify as a teacher and so went to university and studied to be a qualified teacher whilst continuing to work in schools part time. I graduated in 2012 and then started applying for jobs, whilst training I decided that I wanted to teach 5 - 7 year olds.

I applied for a job in one of the schools I had previously worked in and was offered a job, but was told I would be teaching Early Years, I'm sure the shock on my face was obvious and I was a little worried about teaching Early Years children. That was two years ago and I haven't looked back since, in fact each time I have asked to remain in Early Years and hope to do so for a long time.

### **Where did you see your future career at age 15?**

I guess I was one of those lucky teenagers that knew what I wanted to do when I was older. I knew I'd be a teacher, or the Captain of the Starship Enterprise, but I never imagined I'd be an Early Years Teacher. I always pictured teaching the older children from about 7 years old up.

### **What route have you taken in terms of training?**

I worked as a volunteer and then as a paid member of staff at several schools gaining experience before going to university, whilst working part time, to study a teaching degree. I qualified and then was appointed as a Early Years Teacher.

### **What are the best parts of your job? What are the benefits for you and also for children?**

I think the best part is being able to see the children grow and develop their skills and to be the key person that gives them the foundations for their learning journey and their start in life. I think it's an honor to be such a significant part of a child's life. You also get to have lots of fun with all the exciting play activities and work you do with them!

I think a key benefit for children is having good male role models, especially at the beginnings of their school careers and so early on in their lives. The benefits for me is that their love of learning and their enthusiasm for everything rubs off on you, I find myself smiling at something one of them has said and you tend to look at life a little better when working in Early Years.

### **Quote:**

*I never really thought I'd be in Early Years when I imagined my future, but now I don't think I'd want to do anything else!*

**What is your job role?**

Deputy lead practitioner at a preschool.

**How did you get into this job?**

My previous job was working for a car import centre at Southampton docks and after seeing thousands upon thousands of cars it started getting me down that every day was the same. After spending a lot of time with my niece and nephews as well as friends children from their birth it became clear to me that I had a positive effect on them as well as giving me a huge sense of satisfaction that I had finally found something that I enjoyed. So after looking into my potential career paths I successfully applied for a job as a support worker at a residential home with the Hampshire Autistic Society. From there I worked as an LSA at a local preschool, a nursery assistant at a day nursery and now I am a deputy lead practitioner at another preschool.

**What are the best parts of your job? What are the benefits for you and also for children?**

I absolutely love my job. I have never had that 'Monday feeling' and I am always looking for ways to make things better for my setting and the children that attend. It is a shame that men in childcare are so rare but I can honestly say that I cannot think of a more rewarding job than helping the futures of children develop right in front of you every single day.

**What is your job role?**

Room Leader

**How did you get into this job?**

Started in childcare after completing an early years placement at a day nursery during my time training for the Early Years Professional Status.

**Where did you see your future career at age 15?**

Playing toy soldiers in a well-known high street store – after deciding I could not be an astronaut.

**What route have you taken in terms of training?**

Unrelated Degree following retail – enquired about primary school education decided upon Early Years and completed EYP at Winchester University.

**What are the best parts of your job? What are the benefits for you and also for children?**

Seeing an idea stick in a young child's mind and a reassuring cuddle when distressed. Being asked a question which I don't know the answer to from children.

Benefits – Me – a job that I really enjoy and keen to leave as big an impression as I can on the children and families I work with.

Children – Male role model, bringing a different element into childcare from a male perspective, as opposed to women's.