



Alliance
for Learning
BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

EYTS Trainee Case Study

November 2020

In September 2017, I decided it was time for me to change my career path slightly and opted to move from a Year 6 primary school teacher to work in the early years. As a result, I decided it was important to retrain as an Early Years specialist and discovered a course that both appealed to me and fitted my circumstances. This course was with the Alliance for Learning and I qualified as an EYT in 2019 and am now the Early Years Teacher and manager at the University of Cumbria Preschool Centre.

The course was of great benefit to me for multiple reasons. First of all, the quality and variety of the seminars were exceptional. As students, we were able to pick the brains of a range of inspirational professionals and have long discussions with them that were tailored to our vast array of circumstances. One such professional gave the students an open forum to present to her challenging situations they were experiencing in their settings, while she would attempt to offer solutions. It was from this seminar that I put in place a pastoral care plan for one of the children at my nursery, which developed this child's emotional intelligence, and ultimately led to an improvement in behaviour. The result was the child's attainment went up, as they became much more efficient at regulating their emotions and found it easier to access the curriculum, as their behaviour was less of a barrier to learning. The course content was of high-quality too. We were introduced to a range of approaches and strategies and were given the time to reflect on them and apply to our current practice. One such session revolved around the delivery of STEM activities and how to engage children with the world around them. Following this session my immediate response was to enhance the Discovery area in my setting and put together a programme of adult-led activities that staff could deliver. I also redelivered aspects of this training to my team which enabled them to improve their practice when working with children in either the Discovery area or whilst out on campus walks. As a management team, we later discovered that the overall result was higher attainment in STEM related outcomes. As a cohort the children had improved in areas such as Technology and Understanding the World, as identified during tracking analysis.

Overall, my experience with Alliance for Learning was very fruitful and I could eulogize about the professionalism and dedication of those running the EYT course. It is without doubt that I can say that attending this course had a direct impact on my practice and the children in my care at the University of Cumbria Preschool Centre.