

Skills for Work CASE STUDY

Early Education and Childcare Intermediate One and Two

Langside College delivers these Courses as part of their childcare provision.

Rationale

Existing links with the local schools and employers highlighted a need for an entry level course for young people who wish to have a career in childcare but who may not have the required level of qualifications for direct entry into the National Course Early Education and Childcare. The result was the introduction of a full time Access to Childcare Course which incorporates the Skills for Work Early Education Intermediate 1 and 2. Also included are optional Units from NC Early Education and Childcare.

Partnership Arrangements

In this unique case, the Skills for Work Course is delivered solely by the college with direct student recruitment. Partnership arrangements are in place with a variety of local employers to provide work placements for the students.



Delivery Approaches

The Course targets school leavers and adult returners.

The Access to Childcare Course is included in Langside College Prospectus and on the website with information is provided to the local schools through the Colleges' School Liaison Officer. Prior to beginning the Access to Childcare course all the students are interviewed and provided with information and guidance about the Course and their individual career plans.

All students receive an induction, which includes a tour of the College facilities and talks from the Course Coordinator, Student Finance, Student Services and the Student Advisor. They have access to Student Services support and guidance systems throughout their course.

The students are assigned a lecturer to aid the identification of progression routes. This lecturer supports them on placement and will provide additional assistance through the development of Learner Action Plans, Personal Development Plans, career paths and progression routes as part of the Working in Early Education and Childcare Unit.

The Access to Childcare course is taught by a highly experienced and qualified team of lecturers with relevant vocational experience in early education and childcare. There is sufficient staff to maintain a supportive and relevant timetable, particularly to support the development and learning of young and, in some cases, immature and vulnerable students.

The Course is designed in three teaching blocks with students in college three days per week for the first block. In blocks two and three the students attend a placement for one day per week.

Employability Skills

The challenge for Langside College was to develop a relevant and realistic course which supported the young person's progression, learning and development, increased their employability skills, and supported their personal development, in terms of confidence building and communication skills.

The majority of the students achieved the Units contained in the Access to Childcare Course and progressed onto the National Certificate Early Education and Childcare Course based on their achievement.

Of those students who did not achieve all of the Units many remained to complete their course. This allowed for the development of their generic employability skills and improvements in soft skills such as increased confidence and developing social and communication skills.

The Units in the Course have been designed to use the support materials provided by SFEU for the Skills for Work Units, plus additional internet resources such as Joint Information Systems Committee material. In addition there has been on-going development of learning materials and resources to best suit the learning needs of the students.

Centre Evaluation

The students attend work placement in a variety of nursery and primary school settings. This is done in partnership with employers who provide a workplace mentor for the students, and are visited by a college lecturer to chart progress. This allows for the very practical and realistic development of employability skills as students have to engage with staff, carry out tasks and be aware of their own personal commitment and responsibilities.

SQA has highlighted our approach to the integration of assessment as good practice in assessment to ensure that candidates have the most practicable and reliable assessment experience.

Future Delivery Plans

The framework for Langside College's Access to Childcare course has been designed to allow for progression and articulation routes onto the NC Early Education and Childcare, or into employment and training.



Advice

The challenge for the students is moving from full time school education to education within a college environment with more emphasis on responsibility for their own learning, and more freedom to make choices for themselves.

