

## Early years sector

### **Kay Anderson**

#### **Is in the first year of an Early Years Foundation Degree**

Kay would like to go to achieve Early Years Professional Status (EYPS).

#### **What are you studying?**

Foundation Degree Early Years (first year) at Sheffield Hallam University.

#### **What were you doing before this?**

The N.N.E.B. Diploma (now replaced by the CACHE Diploma). I am currently working as a Nursery Assistant in Sheffield.

#### **What do you think of your course?**

It is great that there are people of all ages and we are all learners in similar work-based situations. It is excellent to know that what we are learning is going back into practice and helping improve the centres we work in.



#### **When did you first consider higher education?**

On moving to Sheffield in July 2008 I gained employment in a private nursery. I was still considering part-time study and consulted the views of my manager. I was soon offered the chance to do the Foundation Degree in early Years. I thought this was a fantastic opportunity and leapt at the chance!

#### **What were your concerns about starting a higher education course?**

I was worried about the standard of written work required, but you do get help and support. Concerns about balancing work, university and keeping a social life... you need to be organised! However, my practical experience is of huge importance and helps immensely.

#### **What will you use your qualification for?**

Well, the course opens up opportunities for management and teaching. I would like to go on and get Early Years Professional Status (EYPS). I am not absolutely certain yet what I want to do.

#### **What advice would you give to others considering higher education?**

You have got to be ready to do it! It helps to have a supportive employer. Be prepared to use your observations from your workplace—your practical experience is important, so use it. And take what you learn back to the workplace. Be prepared to do a lot of home study and keep in touch with your fellow students, it helps to keep each other informed. This is fantastic opportunity—don't be afraid to take it!

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