

Early years sector

Laura Crookes

Is due to complete her Early Years Foundation Degree in July 2009

Laura would love to teach a Reception class.

What are you studying?

The Foundation Degree in Early Years at Sheffield Hallam University.

What were you doing before this?

Vocational course: the NNEB Diploma in Nursery Nursing at the Sheffield College. On completion of the NNEB, I spent two weeks as a Nanny in Manchester, then worked on summer playschemes run by the Sports Council and MENCAP. I have done, and still do, a lot of voluntary work with disabled people aged between 15 and 24.

I am currently working as a Senior Early Years Practitioner at Manor Community Childcare.



What do you think of your course?

We were the first intake—"The guinea pigs"! You have to be prepared to put a lot in. It opens up lots of career opportunities and it is great taking good practice from what you learn in your studies into the workplace.

When did you first consider higher education?

I have always loved learning! I heard about the Foundation Degree from a friend... and signed up straight away not really knowing an awful lot about it! I started in January 2007.

What were your concerns about starting a higher education course?

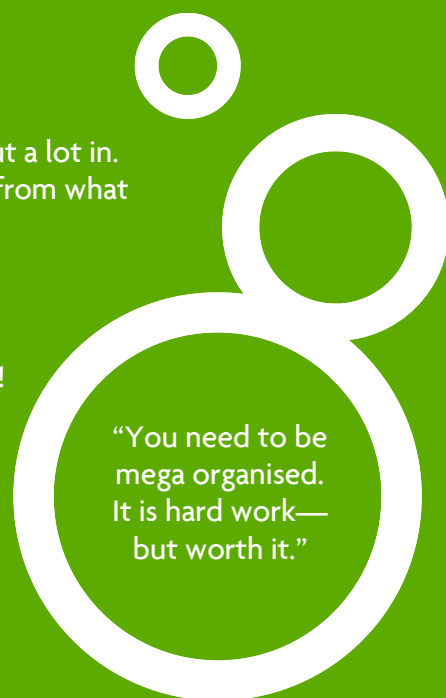
I still had a very small baby, a job and run a parent and toddler group. I have to multi task! My son is most important to me, and I felt guilty about putting him into childcare, but the positives outweigh the negatives.

What will you use your qualification for?

I would love to teach a Reception class, so it would tie into my son starting school and I would be able to work term-time only.

What advice would you give to others considering higher education?

It certainly helps to have support from your family, friends and employer. You need to be mega organised. It is hard work—but worth it.



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