

Early Years sector

Julie Gray

In the first year of an Early Years Foundation Degree.

Julie would like to go on and achieve E.Y.P.S (Early Years Professional Status) and go on to support individual families on a personal level.

What are you studying?

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

What were you doing before this?

I worked in a factory for eleven years and had my two children. I then studied BTEC National Diploma Early Years at North Notts College.

What do you think of your course?

Generally it is very good as you learn from other course members as well as tutors. It is very hard though when you are working full-time as well.

When did you first consider higher education?

I was made redundant and needed to rethink my career plans. I had always been interested in child care but had not had the confidence on leaving school to do a course. After completing the BTEC at North Notts and doing some voluntary work, I then started working in a private nursery as Acting Manager. In 2007, I was appointed Manager at another nursery. My manager felt it would be beneficial for me to do a Foundation degree in Early Years and after coming to the Open Day and talking to the course leader, I enrolled on the course at SHU.

What were your concerns about starting a higher education course?

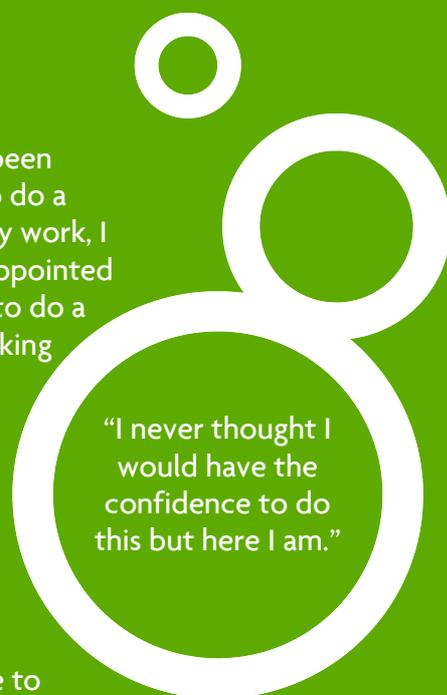
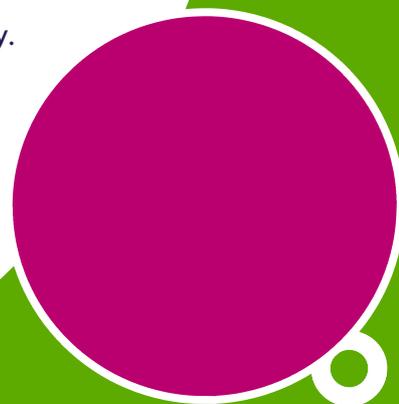
Time management, fitting in work, family and the course. I was lacking confidence at first but using your experience and knowledge is really important on this course and your confidence builds.

What will you use your qualification for?

It has helped me to re-think my job and become a better manager. I am able to reflect upon good practice and incorporate it into provision at my nursery.

What advice would you give to others considering higher education?

Make sure you give yourself enough time to do course work, it's not just about coming to University one afternoon/evening per week but completing assignments as well.



"I never thought I would have the confidence to do this but here I am."