

Early years sector

Leanne Holmes

Is studying for a BA Honours Degree in Early Childhood Studies

Leanne hopes to achieve her goal of being a Foundation Stage Teacher.

What are you studying?

A BA (Hons) Degree in Early Childhood Studies at Sheffield Hallam University.

What were you doing before this?

A BTEC National Diploma in Early Years at Rotherham College of Arts and Technology.

When did you first consider higher education?

I have wanted to pursue a career in early years teaching since I was at school, so higher education has always been part of the plan. Additionally, I was given lots of encouragement and support at college to apply for higher education.



What do you think of your course?

Overall I have enjoyed the course. I have gained a broad knowledge of early years issues—ranging from child protection to educational. I have found the placement experience to be incredibly valuable—especially in my application to the Early Years Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). Significant work experience and the ability to evaluate / learn from it were crucially important.

What were your concerns about starting a higher education course?

Money issues! I have managed, although I have had to do part-time work as well. Meeting up with new people on the course and in my groups, but I have made plenty of friends. In general, coping with the workload from the course and keeping up with my part-time job. It can be difficult at times.

What will you use your qualification for?

I have gained a place on the Early Years PGCE at York St John University. This will help me to achieve my goal to be a Foundation Stage Teacher.

What advice would you give to others considering higher education?

Aim high! As well as the obvious career benefits higher education brings, university as a whole is a good experience to have—personally, socially, as well as academically.

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