



Working in a nursery

Everything you need to know

What's it like to work in a nursery?

Working in a nursery is a rewarding role where you help babies and young children learn, grow, and develop in a safe, supportive environment. Each day involves caring for children, leading play-based activities, and supporting early learning through play, creativity, and routine. While the role can be busy, it offers the opportunity to make a meaningful difference during some of the most important years of a child's development.

You will be:



Supporting babies and young children with daily routines.



Creating a safe and welcoming environment.



Leading fun, age-appropriate activities.



Encouraging learning through play.



Observing children's development.



Working closely with nursery colleagues.



Communicating with parents and carers.



Following safeguarding and safety procedures.

Nursery dos and don'ts

Do

- Watch the **My-Progression** videos on [safeguarding](#) and [working in nurseries](#).
- Take your DBS Certificate and photo ID with you to every setting you go to.
- Wear the correct uniform: a plain black top, black trousers and black trainers are fine.
- Ensure long hair is tied up in a bobble, and you aren't wearing any long false nails.
- Be engaging and proactive: make sure you are interacting with the children at all times, getting down to their level when communicating with them and helping the staff in the room.
- Be patient: children are still learning and growing. They experience many big emotions at this age and may need extra support when they are struggling.
- Follow the correct [moving and handling](#) procedures when picking children up.

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CPD

Learn more!

Don't

- Don't take your mobile phone into rooms where children are present. Always keep it in your bag in the staff room or stored in a locker. You can use your phone in the staff room during your break or when you are off the nursery premises.
- Don't wear a smart watch, such as an Apple Watch: these come under the same policies as mobile phones.
- Don't bring in any nuts or nut-based products: **all** nurseries are now nut-free.
- Don't take any hot drinks or snacks into the rooms: you can take a water bottle in with you.
- Never pick up children by their arms. Always use both hands to pick them up safely.