Men in Childcare

A real career choice

There's more to working with children than play. Childcare is a highly responsible job, but if you genuinely like children and want to be part of their education and development, the effort you make could be your future too.

In 2004 the Government launched its 10-Year Childcare Strategy to improve dramatically the quality of early learning and childcare. A key part of that Strategy is career development and reward for commitment through training and qualification. There's no pressure to qualify at degree level, but the more you learn the more you can earn. Childcare is now a respected profession and there's an increasing demand for qualified, skilled and dedicated staff, particularly men.

There are 5 levels of qualification:

Foundation – if you have little or no experience

Level 2 – you'd be working under supervision

Level 3 – work on your own initiative, plan your own activities and supervise others

Level 4 – you're qualified to be a nursery manager and could move into training and assessing. There are well paid jobs in local authorities at this level

Level 5 – Foundation Degree – and on to Early Years Professional Status. You could be managing several teams or become a college lecturer or work based tutor

Men make up just 3% of the childcare workforce but past research has suggested that over 80% of parents are in favour of male carers. Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships but the majority of single parents are mothers and many children are deprived of being looked after by a man. Male carers can make a real difference to a child's life by filling that gap.

Childcare isn't just for women any more. Childcare is a real career for men and women.

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