

100 in 100 Campaign – Dorset

Fiona Finley started her childminding business 'Fun with Fiona' in June which she runs from her own home.

A mother of 2, she found that her usual full time 9-5 office job just didn't suit her family lifestyle so she completed her childcare courses and then immediately took the plunge to start her own business, in the bungalow where she lives in Bournemouth.

As her childminding business developed Fiona needed help, but felt that she couldn't afford to employ a qualified child carer in the early, delicate stages of her business. A family member, who runs a nursery, suggested she hired an apprentice. She contacted Outstanding Ofsted Training Provider, Aspire Training Team, and within two weeks the team had ensured safeguarding requirements were completed and placed apprentice Hannah Scarlet to work within Fiona's home.

Fiona says;

"I loved the idea of hiring an apprentice because it was more cost effective for me and I have more freedom to develop my business in my own way, training Hannah up to my own requirements. We work well together which is so important in my own home where my main goal is to create a happy family environment for the children I look after. I will most certainly consider hiring more apprentices when I eventually reach my goal of opening a small day care centre as there are so many benefits."

Bournemouth based Beacon Award winners, Aspire Training Team, are backing the 100 in 100 campaign and train around 100 apprentices a year within the care environment. Hannah is the first apprentice they have placed within a childminding business.

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Notes to Editors

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Photographs attached, left to right: Rachel Sullivan (Aspire Training team Assessor working with Hannah), Apprentice Hannah Scarlet, Employer Fiona Finley within her home where she cares for 7 children (including Harry in the photo).