

# Case Study – Early Years Professional Skills

## Building Confidence and Clarity for being an Education Practitioner

### Background

For many years, my background was in accountancy, and more recently I practiced stock trading. I've now developed a strong interest in the education field, which led me to apply for a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) role with Derbyshire County Council.

### Why did you join the Skills Bootcamp?

While waiting for the outcome of my LSA application, I heard about the fantastic opportunity to attend the Early Years Practitioner Skills Bootcamp and decided to join. I wanted to build the knowledge and skills needed to become a confident and effective educator—whether as an LSA or an early years practitioner. My goal was to be well-equipped to contribute meaningfully in educational settings and to support both children and colleagues with clarity and compassion.

### What did you learn about?

I learned about safeguarding and prevent procedures, inclusive education strategies, and how to communicate professionally and effectively. I gained hands-on experience in designing visual aids, posters, and checklists, and I practiced reflective thinking to apply in future work.



### Impact of the Skills Bootcamp

The bootcamp has significantly boosted my professional confidence. I now feel more prepared to support the team and contribute in an educational setting. It provided essential knowledge about supporting children with different needs, working collaboratively with parents and colleagues, and understanding the responsibilities of the role. The inclusion of food safety and first aid training was especially valuable. We also received guidance on CV writing, job applications, and interview preparation, along with suggestions for job placements.

### What are your next steps?

During the bootcamp, I received confirmation that I had been accepted for the LSA role - and I've already agreed to take up the position. I'm excited to begin this new chapter and apply what I've learned.

### Final Comments

Thank you to Amanda, Ellen, and the DACES team for creating such a supportive and empowering learning environment. The bootcamp has made a real difference in my journey, and I'm excited to keep growing and contributing to education in Derbyshire.