



# Early Years

Prospectus | Career Guide



**We're here to help you  
get to where you want to be.  
We'll inspire you, increase your  
opportunities and raise  
your ambitions so you're ready  
to take the next step.  
Start here, go anywhere**

**together**

**we are Ayrshire College**



# Accessibility

Ayrshire College is fully committed to challenging discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, promoting inclusion and celebrating the diversity of all of its students, staff, visitors and partners.

To request a copy of this information in another format please contact us:

Tel. 0300 303 0303

Email. [marketing@ayrshire.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@ayrshire.ac.uk)



[www.ayrshire.ac.uk](http://www.ayrshire.ac.uk)

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## #weareAyrshireCollege



# Why choose College?

Help with first steps towards your career

Change your career

Access further study at University

Start an apprenticeship

Help to start your own business

Study locally

Excellent facilities

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“ Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life. ”

# Build your future at Ayrshire College

Our campuses offer modern facilities with exciting learning spaces, to help you learn in a way that suits you. There are social spaces on each campus, including refectories and coffee shops, where you can relax and catch up with friends.



**Modern Learning  
Resource Centres**

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**Coffee Shops  
and Refectories**

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**Training  
Restaurants**

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**Training Hair and  
Beauty Salons**

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**Motor Vehicle  
Garage**

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**Gym and  
Multi-Sport Pitches**

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**Horticulture  
Centre**

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**Aeronautical and  
Engineering Centre**

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**Science Labs**

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**Construction and  
Trades Centre**

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**Training Hospital  
Ward**

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**Training Nursery**

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**Recording  
Studio**

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**Photography and  
Broadcasting Studio**

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**Are you Creative? Adventurous? Enthusiastic?  
Looking for a rewarding job? Now might be the time  
to think about choosing a career in Early Years,  
where every single day will be different!**

Working in Early Years shapes children's lives, offers great career progression and is extremely sociable.

If you enjoy spending time with young children, and you're passionate about helping them grow and learn – then you could have what it takes to work in Early Education and Childcare.

Whether you're a school leaver or a career changer, there are different ways that you can get a job in Early Years. With a range of courses to choose from, you will be able to develop your knowledge and skills at Ayrshire College.

**#weareAyrshireCollege**



# Did you know...

You'll work in an enjoyable, vibrant and rapidly expanding industry with varied employment opportunities.

We have fantastic industry contacts meaning you get lots of relevant work experience.

You'll study in one of our Early Learning and Childcare classroom suites and experience a realistic working nursery environment.

Early Years provision has changed significantly over the years. Today, effective early learning and childcare experiences are recognised as playing a key role in future life chances and achievement.

Ayrshire College will take into account your qualifications and life experience to place you on a course that's right for you.

Our industry-experienced staff are there to help inspire and support you to fulfil your potential. Apply for one of our Early Years courses and help to shape lives and shape your career.

**“ The College really put your wellbeing first. It's a very supportive environment. You realise it's a community and a good platform to the next level. Doing this course has given me a head start. ”**

**Amanda Millar,**  
Access to Childhood Practice (SWAP)



# Careers

- Early Years Practitioner
- Early Years Support Assistant
- Primary School Teacher
- Additional Support Needs Assistant
- Educational Support Assistant
- Community Education Coordinator
- Nursery Manager
- Classroom Assistant
- Playworker
- Childminder
- Play Therapist
- Early Years Family Support Worker
- Senior Early Years Practitioner



# #weare AyrshireCollege

Early Years courses at Ayrshire College introduce you to the knowledge and understanding you'll need to work successfully in childcare.

It will also develop your practical skills for working with children in various jobs across the sector, including Additional Support Needs roles.



“ The door is open to dynamic, enthusiastic people to pursue an educational career that is, for me, one filled with awe and wonderment when you look at the world through the lens of a young child! ”

Claire Warden,  
Founder of Mindstretchers,  
an education consultancy in Scotland

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# Are you right for the job?

In Early Years, you can help children learn new skills and develop their personalities. You'll also be making a difference to their brain development, which means you can have a crucial impact on their whole life.

We're looking for people who are caring, creative, and full of energy and ideas. There are plenty of jobs out there and lots of potential for career development, learning and, perhaps most importantly, there's a whole load of job satisfaction to be had.

Think about a career in Early Years if you:

**Have good organisational skills to plan the children's day and respond to their different needs.**

**Have got the ability to inspire and enthuse young children.**

**Are energetic, resourceful, responsible, patient and have a caring nature.**

**Like to be creative all the time. The Early Years environment allows you to be as creative as you want to be.**

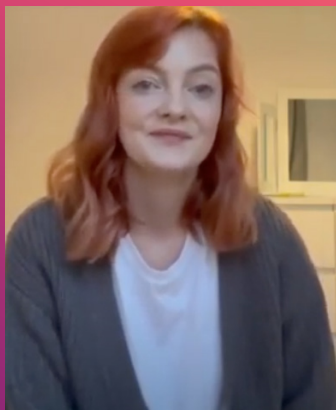
**Want to grow your career. Early Years lends itself to many career options and pathways.**

**Want every day at work to be different. Working in Early Years is never boring!**

If you're looking for something that's rewarding, fun, and has the potential to change lives, then Early Years could be a great career move for you.

# Be inspired...

Our students are doing great things.  
Click on their bios to learn more...



Emily Kennedy changed her career from a travel agent to working full-time as a Classroom Assistant, while studying at the same time. Her goal is to progress to university to become a Primary School Teacher. [Click here to read Emily's story on our blog](#)



Abigail Colman is one of our alumni having graduated in 2020. She now works as an Early Years Practitioner in an Ayrshire school. [Click here to see Abigail's video](#)



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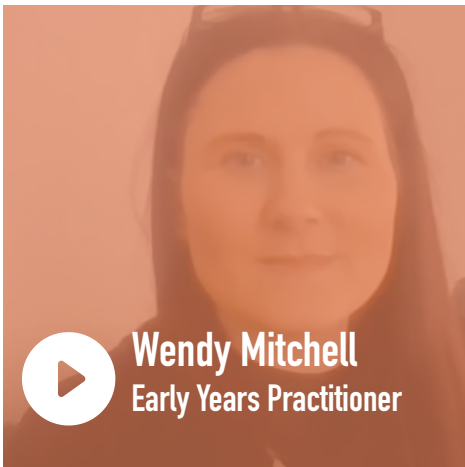
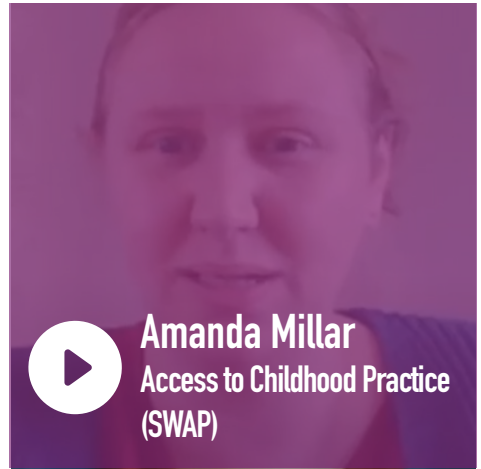
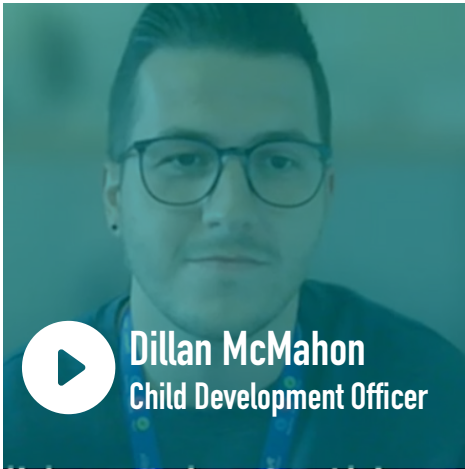
Former carer Alex McNamara, HNC Additional Support Needs, is about to embark on a career in the third sector. [Click here to read Alex's story on our blog](#)



Elizabeth has moved to Spain to fulfil her ambition of working in an international school with early years children. [Click here to read Elizabeth's story on our blog](#)

# #weareAyrshireCollege

Coming to Ayrshire College **can change your life.**  
Don't just take our word for it, click on the links below  
to watch our vlogs...



**“ Working with children is the most rewarding job. No two days are the same and every day you're helping to develop young minds and are making an important and lasting difference to their future. ”**

**Dillon McMahon,**  
Child Development Officer

join us on social:       



# What are employers looking for?

We searched tons of job adverts and here are the top transferable skills we see mentioned for people working in this industry. Don't worry if you don't already have these skills. We work on gaining or improving transferable skills\* in college.

## **Superb interpersonal skills**

Such as patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations.

## **Team player**

Collaborative skills to work productively with colleagues.

## **Creativity**

Someone who is creative, engaging and able to develop strong relationships with pupils.

\*Transferable skills – skills that can be applied to lots of jobs. These are skills you learn at school, college or jobs you have done in the past.

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# Start here...

What are you waiting for? Our Early Years courses provide the opportunity to work in an enjoyable and varied sector with fantastic employment opportunities.

As well as this, Ayrshire College has fantastic industry contacts meaning you get lots of relevant work experience.

We have over 19 courses available in Early Years. Find out more about them [here](#)



## Courses available in:

- Childhood Practice
- Early Education and Childcare
- Educational Support Assistance

Click here  
to see all  
courses



“ The best thing about the course has been working with lecturers who have worked in Early Years before they taught at the College. Their industry experience has been invaluable. ”

Elizabeth Gill,  
Early Learning and Childcare (Level 6)

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# Go anywhere...

You can follow an academic path to more advanced level courses at Ayrshire College, or you could go to university. Our PDA Level 8 Childhood Practice students may be able to go into Year 3 of the Childhood Studies degree at the University of the West of Scotland.

Other university degree options include Primary Education Teaching, Social Work, and Community Learning and Development. Healthcare, UWS

Please check with each university for their articulation requirements prior to your UCAS application. Entry is subject to availability of places and meeting entry requirements, other options may also be available.

**“Although it sounds like a cliché, it has definitely made my dream become a reality. I’m currently an Early Years Practitioner in a local Early Years Centre. I’m learning more and more every day, but above all, I’ve really enjoyed going to work. I’m happy, probably happier in my job than I’ve ever been before and it’s all thanks to taking the plunge and just going for it.”**

**Wendy Mitchell,**  
HNC Childhood Practice  
(Evening)



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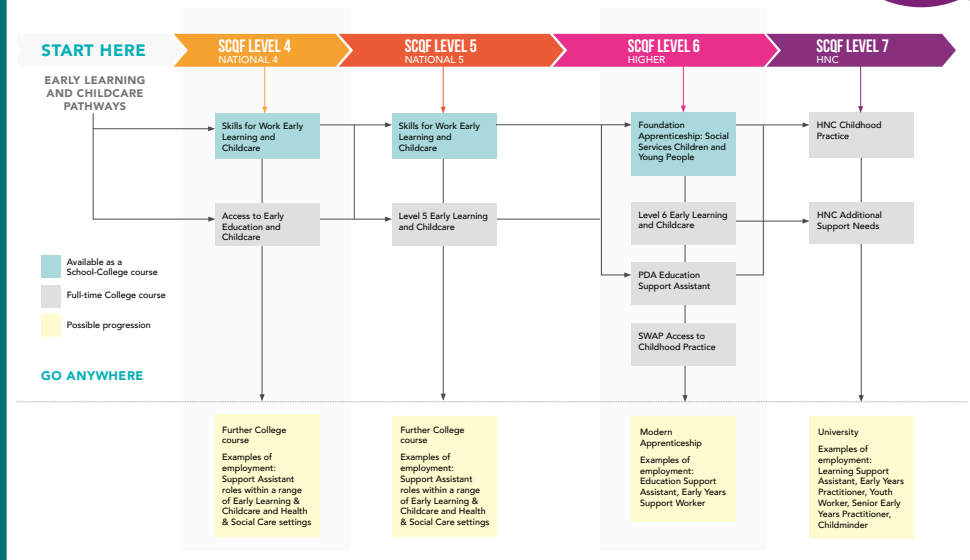
# What path will you take?

Our course pathway maps will help you understand the various routes you can take to help you achieve the qualifications you need.

Zoom in  
to view



## Course pathway map for Early Years



## Still unsure?

Contact our Student Services team and speak to one of our advisors who will be happy to help you.

You can book an appointment to see the Advisor for your curriculum area either in person, over the phone or by email:

[studentservices@ayrshire.ac.uk](mailto:studentservices@ayrshire.ac.uk)

Tel no. 01294 555 333



# Go for it!

You're just two steps away from starting your career in Early Years...

## Step 1...

**Click here** to see our full list of courses at [www.ayrshire.ac.uk](http://www.ayrshire.ac.uk)

## Step 2...



**Apply online now** or download our Application Guide **here**

Full-time courses start in January and August. Apply as soon as you can because our courses fill up quickly!



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