



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Early Years Initial Teacher Training (ITT)

There are 4 training routes available to achieve Early Years Teacher Status. The route chosen by the trainee will be dependent on their qualifications, knowledge and experience.

Graduate Entry (full-time)

This route is for graduates studying full-time through an academic-based route. Typically this will be full-time over a 1 year period.

The following funding is available from NCTL:

- a grant of up to £7,000 for course fees – available to all graduates

and for trainees with high academic achievement:

- a bursary of £9,000 for graduates with a first class degree
- a bursary of £4,000 for graduates with a 2:1 degree

Training providers receive the grant funding on behalf of trainees to cover the course fee. Providers also receive the bursaries and pass these on to trainees.

Graduate Employment Based (part-time)

This route is for graduates in an early years setting who require training and further experience to meet the requirements of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years).

Training typically takes place part-time over a 1 year period.

£14,000 funding from NCTL is available. This covers the training course fees of up to £7,000. The remaining £7,000 is a contribution to the costs incurred by the employer, for example supply cover or salary enhancement.

Training providers receive the funding, retain the course fee and disperse the remainder of the funding to the employer.

Undergraduate (full-time)

This route is for those who wish to undertake a level 6 degree in an early childhood related subject along with Early Years Teacher training. It is typically a full time 3 or 4 year route for those entering the profession.

Funding for course fees can be accessed by eligible trainees through tuition fee loans from Student Finance England (SFE).

Assessment Only (3 months)

This route is for graduates with experience of working with children from birth to 5 years old who can demonstrate the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) without further training. For example, an early years teacher from overseas.

This is a self-funded route.

School Direct (Early Years)

School Direct (Early Years) is a new delivery method, under the **Graduate Entry route** (full-time), for Early Years initial teacher training (ITT) and was introduced in 2014.

School Direct (Early Years) gives schools and nurseries the power to influence how Early Years ITT is delivered and ensures the best trainees are recruited through allocating teacher training places to schools and nurseries directly.

Places are allocated to a lead organisation (school/nursery) who determine the accredited Early Years ITT provider they will work with under a partnership agreement. The aim is to increase the influence of schools/nurseries in the recruitment and selection of trainees, and design and delivery of Early Years ITT programmes.

Names of lead organisations participating in the 2015/2016 delivery will be posted on gov.uk during February 2015.

Entry Requirements

Entry requirements for Early Years ITT are the same as for Primary ITT.

Candidates must

- have achieved a GCSE grade C (or equivalent) in English, mathematics and a science subject
- hold a degree (level 6) from a UK higher education institution or equivalent qualification (in the case of graduate routes)
- have taken part in a rigorous selection process designed to assess their suitability to teach
- have passed the professional skills tests



Professional Skills Tests

Applicants for Early Years ITT are required to pass the professional skills tests in literacy and numeracy before the start of the course.

Trainees can attempt the professional skills tests up to three times. The first attempt is free, but there is a charge to trainees for resits. Candidates who fail 2 resits in either numeracy or literacy cannot book any further resits for 24 months from the date of the second resit.

DfE has produced information/advice to help candidates to prepare for their Skills Tests. Practice tests are also available to help candidates familiarise themselves with the look and feel of the tests and provide an opportunity to revise the different content areas covered by the tests. Please visit: <http://sta.education.gov.uk/>

Training courses are delivered by accredited ITT providers across England. For a list of providers please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-initial-teacher-training-itt-providers>