

We offer a range of specialist Apprenticeships in Education and Business. We work with trusted training providers to ensure the qualifications you receive are high quality and reflect the latest role and employment criteria and requirements.

# From Challenge to Achievement: An Apprentice's Journey

We've been providing nationally recognised work-based apprenticeships for over ten years.

We work with learners and employers to provide quality apprenticeships in the specialised fields of Education and Business. HOT Apprenticeships delivers quality Apprenticeships for nationally recognised teaching assistant, early years, playwork, business sector and more.

## Summary

- **Delivery Area:** Apprenticeships
- **Partner:** Jubilee Nursery
- **Values:** We Care, We Collaborate,

learning



Sonia\* began her journey with HOT as a volunteer at one of our nurseries.

Coming from a challenging personal background and raising three children as a single parent, she was motivated by a passion for working with children and a desire to build a better future for her family.

Sonia initially lacked confidence and faced significant financial pressures while balancing work, childcare, and study commitments. She navigated housing instability, personal difficulties, and the demands of raising children while working towards her qualifications. At times, the workload was heavy, and she often had to complete assignments at home in the evenings after caring for her children.

*“No matter how hard it got, I reminded myself: I’m doing this for my daughters. I will not give up.”*

## Support and development

Through perseverance, Sonia built strong relationships with supportive colleagues, tutors, and managers who valued her contributions. Over time, she gained confidence in planning activities, supporting children’s development, and applying safeguarding practices. Sonia particularly valued mentors who encouraged her and provided practical guidance. Sonia’s children also became an important source of support, motivating her to continue and even helping with study tasks such as maths practice.

Sonia has completed both Level 2 and Level 3 early years qualifications. She demonstrated a natural ability to support children, including a key moment helping a child with additional needs develop mobility skills through tailored strategies and encouragement. This success was recognised by colleagues, parents, and management, and became a source of pride. Eventually, she achieved a distinction in her final assessment, a testament to her resilience and dedication.



# Determination and belief

Looking back, Sonia reflected that her journey was shaped by determination and the belief that opportunities should be open to everyone, regardless of background. Sonia has emphasised the importance of valuing apprentices, offering encouragement, and creating an inclusive environment where individuals can thrive. She hopes her story inspires others to persist through challenges and highlights the difference supportive colleagues and managers can make.

*“When I received my certificate, I felt valued for the first time, and that recognition made me want to keep going. With supportive colleagues and mentors who built my confidence, I began to believe in myself” - Sonia*



## Lesson's learned

- Personal resilience and motivation can help overcome significant barriers.
- Supportive mentors and colleagues are vital in helping apprentices build confidence.
- Apprenticeships should be seen as equal pathways to growth and not undervalued.
- A strong sense of purpose – in this case, creating a better future for one's children – can be a powerful driver of success.

This case study demonstrates how apprenticeships can transform lives, not only through skills and qualifications but also by building confidence, resilience, and self-worth.

\*name changed for anonymity

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