

Title: **Case Study  
Health & Social Care  
in Wiltshire & Swindon**

**Kayleigh Busson** has wanted to work with children since she was ten, when her twin sisters were born. Now after training in childcare at further education college, she works as a nursery nurse at Poplars Daycare Nursery in Swindon.

Kayleigh, aged 19, loves her job. "I like the way you form relationships with the children," she says. "You're in the same room all the time so they get to know you and you get close relationships with them.

"I love doing the messy stuff with them that they wouldn't do at home, like mashed potato play. And I enjoy teaching them different things."

But the work can also be very demanding. "Sometimes we can have up to 15 screaming tots – it can be hard work when they all want your attention at once. And it is physically tiring. When I first started working I used to go home exhausted – but you do get used to it after a while."

Kayleigh went to Dorcan Technology College, Swindon, and left at 16 after taking GCSEs. She had already spent a fortnight doing work experience at Poplars Nursery, but was unsure which career path to take next. "I knew I wanted to do something with children, but I still wasn't sure I wanted to work in a nursery," she says.

She enrolled on a two-year BTEC National Diploma in Early Years at New College, Swindon. The course gave her an insight into

a number of different early years professions. She had a qualification equivalent to 'A' Levels and was now qualified to work with young children.

She studied a broad range of topics including safety and protection of children, understanding different religions, developmental psychology, children's health, growth and development, and diet and nutrition.

"The course was really good, but also quite challenging sometimes – the amount of coursework was hard, but I got a lot of help," she says. "I really enjoyed it, and it gave me hands-on experience."

Students also had to complete 800 hours of work experience – Kayleigh went further by working for two days a week at Poplars nursery throughout her course. And it certainly paid off – when she qualified the nursery offered her a full time job!

Looking ahead, her career prospects are promising. She is thinking of going on to take a two-year Foundation Degree – a qualification that could lead to her becoming a manager of a nursery. It is also a step towards a full honours degree which usually takes another year to complete.

"There are lots of different routes I might go down," she says. "I'll just have to see what happens – I might even open my own nursery one day."