

Name: Gillian Hammond

Job Title: Senior Early Childhood Educator

Company: Stirling Council

Hometown: Stirling



What attracted you to the industry you are in?

I have always had an innate passion and interest in Early Learning and Childcare. I am very committed, enthusiastic and have a real passion for my job particularly when supporting young children and their families.

Have you completed any professional qualifications?

Upon leaving high school, after sixth year, I applied to complete my Higher National Certificate in Early Learning and Childcare at Forth Valley College, however the placement was full so I decided to complete a National Certificate prior to completing my HNC. After completing my HNC I started on supply with Stirling Council before successfully achieving a permanent position. I have completed a Level 8 Personal Development Award and I am currently completing my BA in Childhood Practice at the University of Glasgow. This is a three-year degree and I will be beginning my third year in September 2020.

What skills are the most important for you to do your job well?

Personal qualities including enthusiasm, commitment, approachability, reliability and understanding the importance of confidentiality are vital alongside good communication and interpersonal skills, effective planning and organisation skills.

What's your favourite part of the job?

Building positive relationships with children and their families and supporting them effectively.

What is your advice for young school leavers looking to start an apprenticeship?

Enjoy the learning experience and don't be scared to make mistakes; that is how we learn and develop! Remember that you will achieve your goals. You may take longer than others but remember you are your own person and may learn at a different pace from others. Some days may be more difficult than others but remember the end goal, have confidence in yourself and you will succeed!

Tell us what makes you proud to be a key worker?

I am very proud to be able to provide a safe and nurturing space for children during this difficult time. At a time when they are away from their parents in an unfamiliar environment it is even more crucial to provide a safe and nurturing space for them and provide opportunities for them to safely have access to fresh air and outdoor activities, as well as the opportunity for mindfulness and calm experiences.

#DYWKeyWorkers

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