

University of Warwick Nursery

Students and Volunteers in Nursery

The nursery welcomes applications from students and volunteers asking for placements and opportunities to work with children to further their studies. All students must be affiliated with a university or college. Students and volunteers are DBS checked and volunteers have enrolled with the Warwick Volunteers from the University of Warwick. A limited number of students and volunteers are successful in securing permission to work in the nursery after strict Safeguarding procedures are carried out. This is to ensure only credible applications are successful and the numbers of students and volunteers in the nursery at any one time are kept low as to not overwhelm the babies and children.

Before starting at the nursery, every student and volunteer is given a handbook and the nursery's Safeguarding policy to read and understand. A full induction is carried out with a tour of the nursery, evacuation and lockdown procedures explained and everyone is asked to sign to say they have read and understood the Safeguarding Policy and that they know that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Safeguarding the babies and young children in our care is paramount to everything we do.

Work experience students – These are students who are currently in full time education (secondary school) and are gaining experience in a chosen field as part of the National Curriculum. These students are aged between 15 and 16 years old and have not been issued with a DBS certificate. They are not counted as a member of staff to satisfy ratios and are never left alone with children or are asked to change nappies etc. Work experience placements usually last a week. The students spend one day with each age group then on their last day get to pick a room they would like to return to. This gives all students the opportunity to experience working with all age groups. There is only one work experience student permitted in each playroom meaning that the nursery will only accept up to four students per week.

Work placement students - These are students who are currently working toward a childcare qualification through the City College. Generally, these students are under 18 and have been issued with a DBS certificate. This means that it is permissible for them to change nappies, under supervision, but they are not counted as a member of staff to satisfy ratios and are not left alone with children. The work placement students include T Level students, who work at the nursery two days a week for around two years and students studying at college on placement to gain their Childcare Qualifications Level 2 & 3. They usually are at the nursery for a year, one day a week.

'Step into Work' Learners- The nursery is a host to learners who have left school and are attending college with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Each learner has a coach from college who supports them to become independent and gain confidence in their abilities. The learner is given an 8-to-12-week placement in the preschool room, gaining experience in all aspects of a working environment, from learning how to travel to work independently, working as part of a team and gaining knowledge of working with preschoolers.

Apprentices- The nursery has five apprentices working towards a level 2 or 3 Childcare qualification. The apprentices are enrolled with Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce Training. Each student goes to college one day a week and works as part of the nursery team, four days a week. Each apprentice has a staff mentor, and they have monthly mentor meetings. Each apprentice is given hands on practice experience and advice as they put in practice the theory they have learnt at college. All qualifications take just over a year to gain.

Volunteers- Volunteering is part of Student Opportunity at the University of Warwick. They have a wide variety of opportunities for students to get involved in volunteering and make a difference in the communities around campus and the local area. They have opportunities available in Coventry, Leamington, Kenilworth, Warwick and online too! The Warwick volunteers give their time at the setting for up to an hour at a time and support staff with the children on outdoor learning walks around campus and help with planned activities. Others, called 'Little Readers' read stories to all age groups within the nursery as well as in local libraries and other settings. All Warwick Volunteers are DBS checked and are never left alone with babies or young children. They volunteer their time on a rota basis so that staff know when to expect them. They have become a great asset to the setting.