

What does completing the EYPS entail?

In order to successfully complete the Early Years Professional Status candidates must demonstrate they can meet a set of 39 standards which set out the national expectations for anyone wishing to work as an EYP.

The standards are organised under six headings:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Effective practice
- Relationships with children
- Communicating and working in partnership with families and carers
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Professional development.

To meet the assessment criteria for the qualification candidates must show they can not only meet the standards through their own practice but that they can lead others to do the same.

Leadership skills are an essential part of becoming an EYP, aspirations surrounding the role label EYPs as 'change agents', able to drive improvement in the Early Years and lead the delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Candidates are assessed via:

- A one-day review of their skills.
- Seven written assessment tasks based on their experience of early years practice.
- A one-day assessment visit in their early years setting, including a tour of the setting, a review of the written tasks and an interview with the candidate and some of their colleagues.

Early Years Professionals in Lincolnshire

When you embark on an EYP pathway in Lincolnshire you can immediately benefit from the support of being part of the Lincolnshire EYP Network, which aims to work with EYPs to ensure they are fulfilling their role of leading Early Years Foundation Stage practice.

The network comes together regularly and serves as a meeting point for EYPs, giving them opportunities to:

- Share effective practice.
- Visit other settings to give and receive advice and guidance.
- Access Continual Professional Development.
- Attend conferences and exhibitions.
- Visits centres of excellence to gain an insight into the practice of others.

The network belongs to the members and so plans for its future development are made based on continual feedback and requests.

The Birth to Five Service

The Old School
Lamb Gardens
St. Giles
Lincoln
LN1 2 4EG

Tel: 01522 587570 Fax: 01522 587598

Email: birthtofive@lincolnshire.gov.uk

www.birthtofive.org.uk



Early Years Professional Status (EYPS)



Your guide to becoming an EYP

Every Child Matters *In Lincolnshire*



In partnership with



A Background:

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) report that 90% of a child's brain connections will be made by the time they are five.

The recognised significance of this time in a child's life has led to a renewed focus on the qualifications of those responsible for caring for children in the Early Years.

In 2004 the government launched its 10 year strategy which included an emphasis on raising the quality of the Early Years workforce, identifying specific aims for:

- All settings delivering Early Years education to have an Early Years Professional (EYP) in place by 2015
- All Children's Centres to have an Early Years Professional in place by 2010.

These aims represent a long term commitment from the government to introduce more graduate leadership into the Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent Sectors.

"Early Years Professionals will be key to raising the quality of early years provision. They will be change agents to improve practice. They will lead practice across the Early Years Foundation Stage, support and mentor other practitioners and model the skills and behaviours that safeguard and promote good outcomes for children."
CWDC

Working in the Early Years can be an extremely rewarding and satisfying career. EYPs are seen as the gold standard within the profession and play an extremely important role in shaping the development of young children.

Training Pathways

To become an Early Years Professional you must hold a degree level qualification and GCSEs in Maths and English at a minimum of Grade C.

If you do not currently hold a degree there are still routes to becoming an EYP, it will simply involve a longer period of studying. Please contact the Birth to Five Service for more information on providers in the county and finding the right route for you.

There are currently four EYPS routes available in Lincolnshire:

Validation

A short 4 month assessment only pathway, suitable for candidates holding a full related degree with extensive Early Years experience across the whole birth to five age range.

Short Extended Professional Development Pathway

A 7 month part time pathway for candidates with a full related degree who need to fill certain gaps in their knowledge, for example, within the birth to three age range.

Long Extended Professional Development Pathway

A 16 month part time pathway suitable for candidates holding a minimum of a Foundation Degree qualification. Candidates will top up 60 credits to a full degree before completing their Early Years Professional Status.

Full Training Pathway

A 10 month full time pathway suitable for candidates holding a full unrelated degree who want to make the transition into Early Years.

Funding

The EYPS programme is fully funded and candidates working in the following settings will also receive support for supply cover:

- Private, Voluntary and Independent settings
- Children's Centres
- Designated Children's Centres
- Family Centres

The programme is also funded for staff supporting Early Years settings employed by Local Authorities, Further Education and Higher Education centres.

Once a candidate is committed to an EYPS pathway, if their setting is eligible, they can claim the Graduate Leader Fund to support the salary of the candidate and the continual professional development of the staff. To find out more about the Graduate Leader Fund and whether your setting would be eligible please visit the Birth to Five Service website.

