

## **What should you include in your personal statement for a Childhood Practice course?**

Your personal statement is crucial in helping us decide which course is right for you. Competition for places on Childhood Practice courses is strong and the more information you can give us the more likely you are to get an offer. You should let us know about why you want to apply for the course and tell us why you think you should get a place. We score these personal statements on a number of levels including your experience, attitude and ability to work individually as well as in groups, this all helps us decide who to offer a place to. The higher your score, the more likely you are to get a place. We recommend that you prepare your personal statement in advance, get someone else to read over it and then check it before submitting. That way you will be showing us your best work.

Start by telling us why you have chosen this course.

You should also tell us about your personal skills and qualities which you think will make you a good childcare worker.

We then want to know all about your experience of working with children and young people. For example you may have undertaken a week's work experience at a nursery as part of your schooling. Don't just tell us that you completed it, tell us what you did there and what you enjoyed about it. Any experience you have working with children and young people will help your application (see notes on HNC Childhood Practice below), whether it's babysitting, volunteering or paid employment. Tell us what you do with the children you are working with. If you are a parent you may also want to let us know about some of the skills you use whilst organising family commitments. We are looking for people who can demonstrate a commitment to their career in working with children.

Tell us what you plan to do on completion of the course. This will help us decide if the course you have applied for is the right one.

Please note that if you want to apply for University to do teaching you should check their entry requirements as they may differ depending which university you apply to.

If you are applying for the HNC Childhood Practice you will need to demonstrate that you have significant experience of working with children and young people. By that we mean regular or sustained experience with children, for example Rainbows, Brownies, youth groups, volunteering at your local primary school, sports coaching etc. You will need to have this experience due to the nature of the observational assessments which are an integral part of the course. If, at the point of applying you have limited experience you should indicate how you will gain further experience before the course start date. For example you may organise a placement in a primary school or nursery on a weekly basis until the start of the course in August. If you don't have an opportunity to do this you may be offered a place on the NC Early Education and Childcare course in order for you to gain this experience before a place on the HNC can be offered.