



We are lucky to have one of the 3% of men working in Early Years as our crèche leader.

Tom brings a playful whimsy to the setting whilst being very serious about play and its importance in early childhood development.

We caught up with Tom to find out more about his unique career path.

What made you decide to get into childcare?

In year 10 I went back to my nursery for work experience and I found my calling. I found great enjoyment in watching the children learn and develop their skills in such a short period of time.

What is the most rewarding part of your role?

The most rewarding part is learning from the children and being able to be part of their journey.

What do you think men have to offer to the early years profession that might be missing?

Males give children role models and teach them you can be whatever you want to be by breaking down gender stereotypes. They also bring a different energy to a team.

Have you ever encountered any prejudice?

In the past I have had prejudice from parents and families but with a supportive team we were able to change the people's views. In recent years I have not seen any prejudice and parents and carers see the impact male staff can have and want more male staff in settings.

What are some activities the children might be engaged in of a typical week?

Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on the artist Jackson Pollock and his unique painting technique as well as the colours black and white. We will be using a range of tools such as brushes and sticks to pour and drop paint. We will also be creating sensory bottles to see how the colours flow.

V22 WORKSPACE CRÈCHE: INTERVIEW WITH CRÈCHE STAFF

We are very fortunate to have some great childcare practitioners at V22 Workspace Crèche. People who are passionate about their career in early years and the impact they are able to have on a child's life. Meet Stephanie, our newest member of the team who grew up in Hackney.



What was it like to grow up in Hackney?

Hackney has always been a very vibrant place. There was always something to do, such as going to youth clubs and places like Hackney Empire for pantomimes. I have always loved being outdoors so spent a lot of time in Victoria Park.

What made you decide to get into childcare?

It has always been a lifelong dream and I have always had an attachment to children since I looked after my nieces and nephews. Children have been very fond of me and as soon as I was able to I gained experience in a childcare setting by going to a primary school for my Year 10 work experience.

What is the most rewarding part of your role?

The most rewarding part of my role is seeing how the children grow and develop. I have seen children start in a setting with few communication skills and watched them grow and develop to the point they are able to converse with others confidently. I also enjoy being involved in each child's journey and supporting them to learn new social skills, skills they can use later on in life such as taking turns and how to socialise with others. It's great watching them form their first friendships.

How is working in a co-working crèche different from your previous experience in a more traditional setting?

The difference is in the amount of children who attend the crèche as I have found that other settings have upwards of 20 plus children in a room. The other difference is having all age groups in one room and setting up the room to meet the needs of all age groups.

Is there anything you would like to change about childcare in the UK?

I feel that the role of an early years practitioner needs to be more recognised, as the experiences that children have in early years are vital for their skills in later life.

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