

# Nursery manager

Early years educator, pre-school manager

Nursery managers run early years childcare centres, providing day care for babies and young children from birth to 5 years.

**Salary:** £23,000 to £45,000 average per year

**Hours:** 35 to 40 per week

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## 1. Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- a [full and relevant](#) level 3 qualification in childcare
- [level 2 qualifications](#) in English and maths (including functional skills)
- 2 years' work experience with children in a nursery setting
- experience of supervising or managing staff

Some smaller nurseries may prefer you to have a degree or [early years teacher status \(EYTS\)](#).

You could work your way up from a nursery worker role to a room leader or '3rd in charge' role to get supervisory experience.

You'll also need an [enhanced background check](#) which your employer will arrange for you.

[Foundation Years](#) has information about early years education and childcare.

You'll find information on careers and courses in childcare from:

- [Pre-school Learning Alliance](#)
- [Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years \(PACEY\)](#)
- [National Day Nurseries Association](#)

## 2. Skills required

You'll need:

- excellent communication skills

- the ability to motivate and support staff
- problem-solving skills
- the ability to use your own judgement to make decisions
- organisational skills
- financial management skills
- IT skills

### 3. What you'll do

You could work for a local authority, a privately owned nursery or a Sure Start Children's Centre.

Your day to day tasks could include:

- creating a safe and stimulating environment to promote learning
- updating parents and carers on children's progress
- working with colleagues to meet children's needs
- checking equipment is in good condition

Your business responsibilities will often include:

- recruiting staff
- supporting and developing the nursery team
- managing a budget
- arranging marketing materials
- keeping records and creating management reports
- working within environmental, health and safety and fire regulations
- keeping up to date with developments in early years care
- building relationships with parents, carers, schools and childcare professionals

You'll also work with the nursery owner to make sure it meets Ofsted and early years foundation stage standards.

### 4. Salary

Starter: £23,000 to £28,000

Experienced: £30,000 to £35,000

Highly Experienced: up to £45,000

These figures are a guide.

### 5. Working hours, patterns and environment

Nurseries are often open from around 7am to 6pm.

You'll usually work up to 8 hours a day. You may also have to work Saturdays and some evenings to cover events like parents evenings.

### 6. Career path and progression

With experience, you could become an area manager and look after the work of a number of nurseries. You might also consider setting up your own private nursery. [Ofsted](#) have information on how to do this.

You could become a trainer or training assessor for people studying for childcare qualifications. You could also move into inspection.

Taking a higher education qualification in early years or child development could help you move into teaching, children's nursing or social work.

[Get Into Teaching](#) has careers information on teaching.

[Health Careers](#) has information on careers in nursing.

[The British Association of Social Workers](#) can give you information on careers in social work.

## Related careers

You may be interested in:

- [Primary school teacher](#)
- [Social worker](#)
- [Nurse](#)
- [Her Majesty's Inspector and Regulatory Inspector](#)
- [Nursery worker](#)