

Working for All

*Routes into work based learning for young people
with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
A guide for parents/carers*



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Leading learning and skills

Skills & Learning for London

What is work based learning?

Work Based Learning (WBL) is a government funded scheme designed to give young people learning or training opportunities that are delivered mainly in the workplace.

Training programmes usually comprise of work experience, on-the-job training and off-the-job training. The programmes are flexible in that you do not need to complete the programmes in a minimum or maximum length of time.

Programmes can be taken either full time or part time. If you take part in a WBL programme you will be given the opportunity to get a qualification such as the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ).



Work based learning can take many forms such as:

- Apprenticeship programmes
- National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) training
- Preparatory training
- The opportunity to study or undertake training while working
- Jobcentre plus programmes

What work based learning courses/programmes are available when you leave school? Foundation Learning Tier (FLT)

The foundation learning tier will provide you with work based learning below Level 2 if you are not yet ready for an apprenticeship. This programme will help you progress onto Apprenticeships, employment or further learning opportunities.

Apprenticeship programmes

Apprenticeship programmes are targeted at young people aged 16-24. Apprenticeships provide you with work-based training. They give you the opportunity to learn new skills and gain qualifications while working. You can gain training up to NVQ level 2. Advanced apprenticeships provide training towards at least NVQ level 3.

Apprenticeships are available in a number of sectors including:

- Business Administration
- Animal Care
- Childcare
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Painting and Decorating
- Hairdressing

Jobcentre Plus programmes

The New Deal programme offers you specialist advice and support. Activities include trial taster courses in work and extra training opportunities.

There are specific programmes to help disabled people into employment. They work closely with employers to ensure appropriate support is in place.

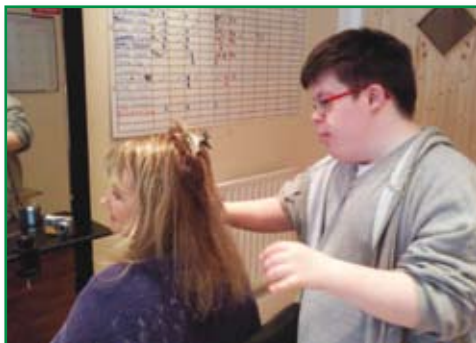
Pathways to Work provides extra support if you have a health condition or a disability to help you move into work or to be able to work in the future.

What are the benefits of work based learning?

If you take part in work based learning you will be given the opportunity to identify your skills, strengths and abilities and can transfer these to finding a job.

Work based learning programmes such as apprenticeships strike a balance between learning a trade and earning a living. They are a popular and recognised education/career option leading to recognised qualifications. If you have a learning or physical disability, you can access additional support with your learning.

Many training providers have a lot of experience of working with young people with special training needs. You will be undertaking work based learning in a supportive working environment, working in small groups alongside other established students. Training Providers aim to make your time fun and enjoyable as well as educational.



Work based learning will help you to:

- Improve on your achievement in school
- Relate the skills learnt to learning in the classroom
- Think about possible careers
- Increase self confidence
- Develop work experience and skills needed for work
- Connect with an adult role model
- Expand your opportunities

What are the possible concerns of parents?

As parents and carers you may be concerned about what will happen when your child leaves school. You may not know where to look for local support and services. You may be fearful that your child will be left alone at a college or training provider with no support, as the environment your child is going into will be larger than what they were used to at school.



Many colleges and training providers have support programmes in place including:

- Open day/evenings for parents to give you the opportunity to see the classes in action, so you can visualise what it will be like for your child
- Allow visits by young people including participation in taster courses before deciding to apply
- Induction courses over the summer before young people start
- Small groups to ensure the young person's needs are catered for
- Some providers may have units that are separate from the rest of the college to help students settle in easily
- Additional staff is available at lunchtime
- Children/parent networks

What support is offered to help young LLDD get into work based learning?

Social Services

Pre-18, Children Social Services provide support to you when considering going into work or learning post-16. They can help with issues such as how to access transport. At 18 this role is taken over by Adult Social Services.

Direct payments

You are given money to purchase a package of support. You have to be assessed based on fair access to care. There are four bandings, low, moderate, substantial and critical.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

EMA is a means tested weekly allowance of up to £30 to help you in education or training after leaving school. This does not effect any benefits or any other dependents benefits.



Additional Learning support funding

Learner Support Funds are available if EMA does not cover all your needs or meet special circumstances and costs.

Work based learning providers in England receive funding to pay for additional support required for disabled learners.

The training provider can use these funds to provide general resources for use at the centre. Support available may vary between different training providers

They will also help you with applications for any additional support you may need.

Skill

Help and information is available from Skill, the National Bureau for Students with disabilities. Skill is a national charity promoting opportunities for young people and adults with any kind of impairment in post-16 education, training and employment. They have produced publications and information booklets that provide useful information on support available.

Connexions

Connexions provide a service for learners with a learning difficulty and/or disability up to the age of 25. They offer advice and guidance in confidence. They may be able to help with specialist support, this can include information on opportunities available when you leave education and training.

Jobcentre Plus

The Disability Employment Advisor (DEA) provides support for people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. They also refer people onto the jobcentre plus schemes for disabled people.

Further Information

For more information about the programmes and support mentioned in this guide please go to the following websites.

Apprenticeship programmes

www.apprenticeships.org.uk.

Social Services

Contact your Local Authority for Children and Adult Social Services departments.

Direct payments

You can find out more information from the Department of Health website under the social care section *www.doh.gov.uk or contact your local authority.*

Skill

www.skill.org.uk

Connexions

www.connexions-direct.com

Jobcentre plus

Contact your local jobcentre plus or information can be found on the website. *www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk*

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

www.direct.gov.uk/ema



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