

EDUCATION  
SPECIAL EDITION  
NORTH  
SOMERSET  
LIFE

# LEARNING FOR LIFE



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# Lifelong learning

September is always a time for new beginnings – the change of seasons, new routines and a new academic year starting.

Young children are excitedly going to school for the first time, older children moving from primary to 'big' school, teenagers gearing up for GCSEs and more, while young people head off to new towns and cities for university life.

With the whiff of autumn in the air, it's time to start over again.

Maybe you're in work and want to hone your skills in a particular field to move up the career ladder? Or head in a new direction and have a complete career change? Or decide to go it alone and set up in business by yourself?

If you've been out of work for a while and lack confidence, you could think about a community learning course to increase your employability skills.

Maybe you have retired, you don't have children or they've long since flown the nest, and now you have more time to reflect on the things you've always wanted to do.

Could you 'return to learn' and study a new subject for the sheer fun of learning? Or take a creative class and be inspired to be artistic?

Learning is for life, after all.



## Funding available to help with childcare costs

Funding is available to help reduce childcare costs for working parents in North Somerset.

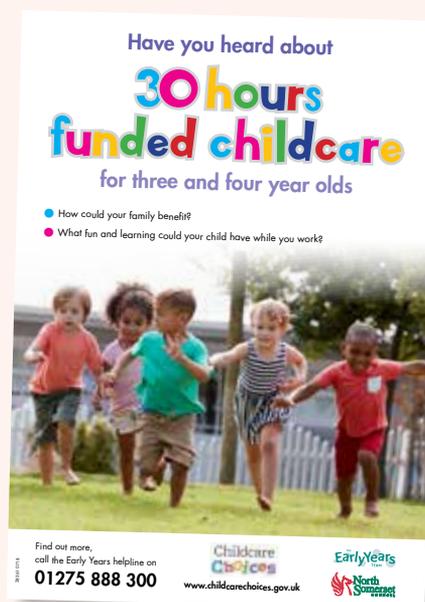
The national scheme means all children aged three and four are eligible for 15 hours a week of early education, for 38 weeks a year, eligible from the term after their third birthday.

Last year the government extended this to 30 hours a week if both parents are earning the equivalent of 16 hours a week at national minimum wage, and less than £100,000 a year. You can apply online at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

These funded hours are term-time only so nurseries which open all-year-round will stretch out the available 1,140 hours across the whole year.

Not all providers will offer the full 30 hours, though, because of restrictions on their premises. Some might vary their hours to suit local needs.

Funding periods start on 1 January, 1 April and 1 September each year.



Three and four-year-olds whose parents do not meet the criteria for 30 hours will still be entitled to the universal offer of 570 hours a year, or 15 hours over 38 weeks.

Other incentives are also available, such as tax-free childcare and tax credits for children.

Find out which scheme is right for you and apply online at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

To find out what's available in North Somerset for families, visit the family information service at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fis](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fis)



# Choosing the right childcare

Babies and toddlers reap great benefits from being in high-quality childcare settings during their early years.



The Study of Early Education and Development (SEED) has been following 6,000 children since 2014 and results so far show those in a childcare setting are already seeing benefits, such as developing language skills and interacting well with other children.

So while returning to work can be a big step, you can rest assured your little one will thrive in childcare thanks to lots of new opportunities.

The type of setting you choose – whether nursery, pre-school or childminders – comes down to personal preference and what works for you as a family.

How many days a week is childcare needed, how many hours, will it be

year-round or term-time only, what's your budget, and the child's age and needs?

One form of childcare often overlooked is childminding.

North Somerset's local childminders are well regarded. A recent Ofsted report said: "Children develop very high levels of confidence and excellent social skills.

**"They learn to play cooperatively, share and take turns exceptionally well, and have very strong attention skills."**

Childminders provide a 'home from home' experience which is the most nurturing environment for many children.

They deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and work closely with schools to prepare children moving into reception class.

Many childminders care for children from baby through to pre-school and often provide before and after-school care too.

Government-funded childcare for two, three and four-year-olds is also available through most childminders.

A wide range of opportunities are provided to support children's learning, as well as socialising with others during toddler groups, library visits and meeting up with other childminders and their children.

To find out more about all types of childcare, visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/childcare)

# Preparing for school

Starting school is a big step for little children and it can have a significant impact on the whole family.

New routines to manage, new faces to familiarise yourself with and new emotions to cope with.

One of the main ways you can help prepare your child for this new adventure is making sure their 'soft' skills are up to date, rather than worrying about whether they know letters and numbers.

Researchers in America found there was a significant correlation between a child's social skills in kindergarten (equivalent to reception year in UK) and their success in early adulthood.

Children who were more helpful and generous in kindergarten were more likely to graduate from college and have a full-time job at the age of 25.

Teachers will give your child lots of support at school but it's helpful if they can do some things for themselves to build your child's confidence and independence beforehand.

There are lots of resources available with information for parents to digest and put into practice.

The website [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk) has online guides with advice about what to expect and how to manage this change, such as making friends and school routines.

## Top tips include...

- choose clothes and shoes for their school uniform that are easy to get on and off, such as shoes with Velcro, trousers or skirts with stretchy waistbands, and t-shirts.
- can they use the toilet on their own? Read advice and tips available from [www.eric.org.uk](http://www.eric.org.uk)

## How to apply

Applications can soon be made for next year's school places.

The online admissions system opens on Wednesday 12 September for children currently in their final year of primary or junior school and are due to transfer to a secondary school in September 2019.

The closing date for these is **Wednesday 31 October.**

If your child was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 you will also be able to apply for reception, infant and first schools – as well as any children in their last

- are their other 'life skills' up to speed? Can they use a knife and fork, and drink from a cup not a beaker?
- can they recognise their own name when it is written down? Do they know the days of the week and when they'll be at school?
- can they introduce themselves to new friends?
- test the commute – walk the route a few times so you know how long it actually takes and your child gets used to it.

For a host of other information online – from childcare to activity sessions – visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fis](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fis)

Apply online at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions)

Paper application forms are available on request: 01275 884 078 / 014 or [admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk)

year of infant and are due to transfer to a junior school.

The closing date for these applications is **Tuesday 15 January 2019.**

It's very important to apply by the closing date otherwise you may not be considered in the first round of allocations.

Parents can name up to three preferences and may apply for schools both within and outside North Somerset.

Late applicants have less chance of being offered their preferred school.

## Starting or moving school next year?

Now is the time to start choosing schools for next year's intake.

Visit [www.n-somerset/applyforschool](http://www.n-somerset/applyforschool) to...

- use the map to find schools in your area
- visit the Ofsted website to read the latest inspection reports
- find contact details for all North Somerset schools – most will be happy to show you around and organise special open days in the autumn
- find out which schools have been oversubscribed in previous years
- read the latest guides for applying and transferring schools, and the appeal process.



# Work opportunities for young people

Getting a job is an exciting step in a young person's life – helping them meet new people, gain employability skills and earn some money.

It also looks great on a CV when applying for future jobs, or to college or university. Here are some top tips to help young people and parents navigate their first job:



## Type of work young people can do

### ● Age 0-13

The youngest age a child can work part-time is 13, except children involved in areas such as television, theatre or modelling.

Children working in these areas will need a performance licence. Visit

[www.gov.uk/child-employment](http://www.gov.uk/child-employment)

### ● Age 13-17

Teenagers can take part in light work in many different areas, such as:

- delivering newspapers and leaflets
- shop work
- working in a hairdresser
- office work
- café or restaurant work
- domestic work

### ● Age 18 onwards

Young people are now required to stay in full-time education until they are 18. Once they have finished their education, the type of full-time work they can do includes a wide variety of settings:

- working in a cinema
- theatre work
- delivering milk
- delivering fuel oils
- working in a bar or nightclub
- working in a commercial kitchen



# What hours can young people work?

Days of work	Hours of work	Max hours (13 – 14 year-olds)	Max hours (15 – 18 year-olds)
School days	7am to start of school	1	1
School days	Close of school – 7pm	2	2
School holiday	7am – 7pm	25 per week	35 per week
Saturday	7am – 7pm	5	8
Sunday	7am – 7pm	2	2



## Employability law

Employers have additional legal responsibilities when employing young people and must carry out risk assessments to ensure they are working legally and safely.

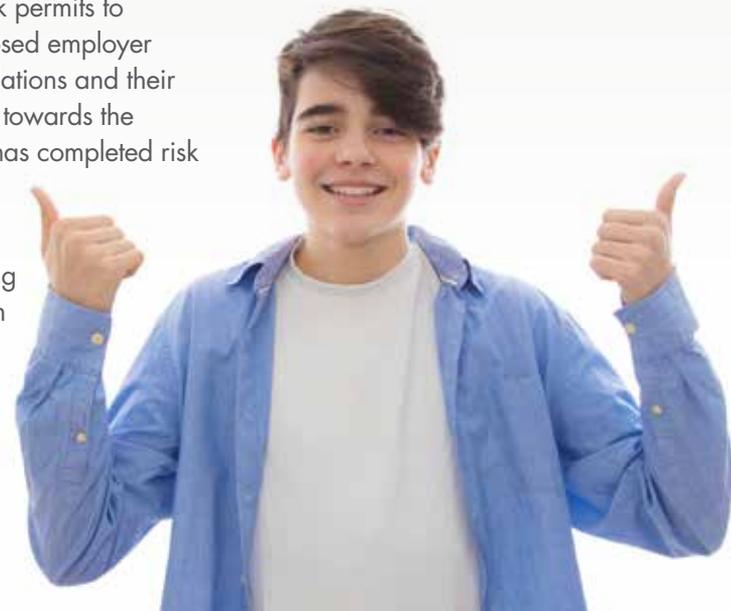
All children aged 13 to 18 working part-time must have a work permit to ensure the business is covered by employers' insurance.

Permits have defined limits, such as the nature of duties, times of day and number of hours worked.

It's the employer's responsibility to apply for a work permit and without one, the employer is breaking the law and can be prosecuted.

North Somerset Council checks applications for work permits to make sure the proposed employer is aware of the regulations and their legal responsibilities towards the young person, and has completed risk assessments.

The council also checks with the young person's school, both their attendance and whether the employment may impact on their education.



**Nailsea School**

ASPIRE | BELIEVE | SUCCEED

Nailsea School, where every child...

...is part of the picture.

**OPEN EVENING**

**Thursday 27 September 6pm - 8.30pm**

Daytime tours available by appointment, please contact the school.

01275 852251 | nailseaschool.com | info@nailseaschool.com  
 Nailsea School Mizzymead Road Nailsea BS48 2HN

For more information about the types of work children can or cannot be employed for in North Somerset, visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/child-employment](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/child-employment)



# Post-16 education is changing

The pace of post-16 education and training is changing rapidly with more and more young people undertaking work-based apprenticeships and new T-levels soon to be an option too.

If you're a parent to a teenager about to start Year 11, then choices will soon need to be made about their next steps once school and GCSEs are completed.

Sixth forms and colleges will be holding open evenings this autumn for next year's intake so take a look around as many as possible to see what subjects are on offer as well as the general atmosphere of the place.

Apprenticeships could also be an option if work-placed learning would be a more suitable path.

## New T-levels on the horizon

From 2020, new technical study programmes will sit alongside apprenticeships and A-levels within a reformed skills training system.

T-levels will offer a mix of classroom or workshop-based learning and 'on-the-job' experience.

They have been developed in partnership with the government, business and education to prepare students for highly-skilled jobs and to meet the needs of the economy in the future.

Locally in North Somerset, Weston College has been chosen as one of the first providers to offer T-levels from September 2020.

This means teenagers now going into Year 10 will be the first ones to be able to take them.

Subjects available will be digital, construction, and education and childcare.

T-levels will then be rolled-out nationally from September 2023 with a wider variety of subjects, including engineering and manufacturing; legal, finance and accounting; business and administration; catering and hospitality; and more.

Students completing T-levels will have numeracy, literacy and digital skills as well as wider transferable skills, attitudes and behaviours needed in the workplace.

[www.cityandguilds.com/tlevels](http://www.cityandguilds.com/tlevels) • [www.weston.ac.uk](http://www.weston.ac.uk)



# Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships give young people the chance to earn while they learn, gain valuable work experience and get a nationally-recognised qualification.

They offer real-world workplace experience for those who decide a life in academia and university is not for them.

Apprenticeships are open to everyone aged 16 and over in a wide variety of subjects, with the top five sectors being health, public services and care; business and law; engineering and manufacturing; retail and commercial enterprise; and construction and planning.

Locally, North Somerset Council runs an apprenticeship scheme in partnership with Weston College.

Lots of roles are available, including business administration, customer service, civil engineering, accounting technician (AAT) and IT.

The council's apprentices are paid a starting salary of £10,739, can access all Weston College facilities and get 24 days paid annual leave.

Vacancies are advertised all year round so keep your eyes peeled on [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/jobs)

For support and help – including hints and tips about how to write a good application form – visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/apprenticeships)



## Flying the nest

Parents across North Somerset will soon be waving off their grown children as they embark on a new adventure at university.

Whether they stay locally in the South West or move to far-flung reaches of the country, there will be a lot of emotions for all the family to deal with.

As soon as their university place is confirmed, your son or daughter will start to receive lots of messages about registration, module choices, accommodation and freshers or welcome week information.

Most universities have a dedicated website and moderated Facebook group for new students so they can get to know their university and fellow students before they even set foot on campus.

Lots of mail might be coming through the post too, so they'll need to sift through, prioritise and read everything carefully as some might need a prompt response.

For more detailed information about accommodation, finance and student life in general, online resources are a big help.

Top websites include:

[www.ucas.com/undergraduate](http://www.ucas.com/undergraduate)

[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)

[www.studentminds.org.uk/startinguniversity](http://www.studentminds.org.uk/startinguniversity)

[www.thestudentroom.co.uk](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk)



# Free and low-cost courses



Free and low-cost courses are available to adults in North Somerset who have few or no formal qualifications to help improve their employability, health, wellbeing and confidence.

Courses are available in a wide range of subjects, including improving customer service skills, British Sign Language, woodwork for women, healthy eating, bike maintenance and managing anger.

They are delivered by North Somerset Council's community learning team and are available for people aged 19 and over.

People taking the courses might have barriers to learning such as dyslexia, drug or alcohol issues, mental health issues, have learning difficulties, physical disabilities, be homeless, domestic abuse survivors or ex-offenders.

*Life* takes a look at some success stories...

## Nazira

Nazira came to the UK from Bangladesh in late 2014 and now lives in Clevedon with her parents and brother.

When she first moved here she was nervous and not confident with her English.

Nazira said: "I could speak a little bit but my grammar was not great."

A family friend told them about community learning courses and both Nazira and her mum joined.

Cirlei (Chile) Ioris, a development worker for community learning, organised an English course at Clevedon children's centre, which was very popular among mothers.

It soon became a support group for women from different countries.

During the last three years Nazira and her mum have completed six English courses and Nazira also completed Introduction to Childcare.

She said: "Chile asked if I wanted to do it and I really did. I want to work in a nursery or crèche because I love children."

Nazira is now volunteering in local children's centres and is continuing to study.

Chile said:

**"It's amazing to see people develop their skills and build confidence."**

## Michelle

Michelle was unemployed and suffered with anxiety and panic attacks when she first contacted the community learning team two years ago.

She found out about the service through the Jobcentre and began with some wellness courses, building self-confidence, mindfulness, yoga and holistic therapy.

Michelle: "It's a great way to get into a routine and out the house, building confidence that you can keep an appointment and be around people."

Michelle also attended sessions at mental health charity 1in4 People and soon started volunteering there to share her experiences with people in similar situations.

She has now completed a Level 2 in counselling and is working with people with mental health issues at Weston College.

Michelle added: "I'm still getting support from community learning and now doing IT courses to improve my employability skills."

# courses for adults

ENGLISH



## David

David has bipolar disorder which had affected his employment prospects.

He contacted community learning about four years ago, after being out of work for three years.

It was not easy but David said: "I wanted to do something because I was wasting my life and realised that if I don't put myself out and do things, what's the point?"

He began with personal development courses such as mindfulness, building self-confidence and life skills.

He then started volunteering with Voluntary Action North Somerset and completed a programme with Team North Somerset, an organisation which provides support for people facing multiple or complex barriers.

David said: "People don't realise how many services are out there – and everyone I worked with was brilliant."

Engaging with different agencies helped him get back into a regular routine and prepare him for employment.

He was recently offered a job with a local hospitality company and David said:

*"I'm telling everyone now – you've got an opportunity, go and sort it out."*

## Upcoming courses and start dates

### Personal development

- Mindfulness – Tuesday 18 September
- Building self-confidence – Tuesday 18 September
- Anger management – Wednesday 19 September
- Assertiveness – Wednesday 19 September

### Functional skills

- ESOL – English for speakers of other languages – Wednesday 5 September
- English literacy – Monday 10 September
- IT – Monday 10 September

### Employability

- Gardening projects – Wednesday 12 September
- Finding work in cleaning – Monday 17 September
- British Sign Language – Friday 28 September
- Becoming your own boss: introduction to self-employment – Thursday 4 October
- Care Academy – Monday 24 September
- Customer service – Monday 1 October
- Introduction to business administration: office skills – Monday 15 October

- Introduction to childcare level 1 – contact community learning for start date
- Introduction to event and project management – contact community learning for start date
- Introduction to hospitality – contact community learning for start date

## Are you inspired to learn?

To find out more about the courses available, and new upcoming ones, call the community learning team: **01934 427 504**  
**community.learning@n-somerset.gov.uk**  
**www.n-somerset.gov.uk/communitylearning**



# for Life directory

## Early years and pre-school

To find out more about all types of childcare, visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/childcare)

Family Information Service: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fis](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fis)

For government-funded childcare and to apply, visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

## School age

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/applyforschool](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/applyforschool)

School admissions:  
[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions)  
01275 884 078 / 014  
[admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk)

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

[www.eric.org.uk](http://www.eric.org.uk)

Employment rights for children and young people:  
[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/child-employment](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/child-employment)

## Post-16

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/apprenticeships)

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/jobs)

[www.cityandguilds.com/tlevels](http://www.cityandguilds.com/tlevels)

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)

[www.studentminds.org.uk/startinguniversity](http://www.studentminds.org.uk/startinguniversity)

[www.thestudentroom.co.uk](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk)

## Adults

Community learning team:  
01934 427 504

[community.learning@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:community.learning@n-somerset.gov.uk)  
[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/communitylearning](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/communitylearning)

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/jobs)

