

# Working in the early years *a volunteer case study*



**Charlie Settlefield**  
aged 18

**Volunteer at Butterflies Childcare Afterschool  
and Holiday Club in Ipswich**

**How did your volunteer opportunity come about?**

My Mum worked at the club as a cleaner and suggested I volunteer to take on a challenge. I'd never thought about working in childcare! I started here doing work experience from school then continued volunteering at the club after college and during the holidays and have done this for 2 years.

**What did you know about early years childcare before you started?**

I didn't know loads though used to go to a holiday club when I was younger.

**Was there anything you were worried about before starting?**

When and how to say no to children, I tended to avoid difficult things and conversations at school even if they would have benefited me.

**What surprised you about working in early years and childcare?**

The amount of safeguarding and I didn't know how many measures are in place to help this.

**What has been the benefits to you of volunteering in a childcare setting and what did you enjoy?**

It has really benefited my social skills and my confidence. I've also had a job interview off the back of volunteering. I like football and gaming and enjoy sharing this with the children who love it too.

**What advice would you give anyone who wanted to volunteer in a childcare setting?**

I'd tell them to do it and come here!

# Working in the early years *a volunteer case study*



## **Sarah Wright – joint owner/ manager of Butterflies Childcare**

**What does a volunteer need to know and do and how did you support Charlie as a volunteer?**

A DBS and safeguarding knowledge, good time keeping skills, appropriate clothes and behaviour, understand rules on around phones, take control of situations under supervision, keep children safe and happy. I ensured Charlie had a DBS, a thorough induction and regular, supportive chats.

**Would you take on a volunteer again?**

Yes, Charlie has been really good with the children and they love him. You need to ensure you have the right person but I definitely would take on a volunteer again.

**What have been the benefits of having a volunteer in your setting?**

He has been an absolute pleasure to have with us and a massive asset in the holidays, especially with the sports he can play with the children.