

Care in Scotland it's life changing work

**Anthony Docherty,
Child Development Officer**

**"Working with children - you
don't need any more
motivation."**



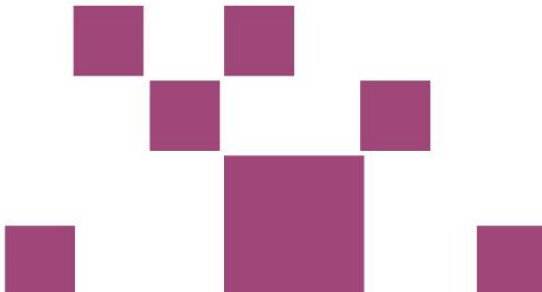
Anthony works at Kelvinside Academy Nursery with three to five year old children. Read more about his role [here](#).


**What type of service
do you work in?**

I work with three to five year old children Monday to Friday where a colleague and I work with a group of 10 children. On Sundays I coach boys' rugby at Glasgow Hawks.

**Have you always
worked in social
services?**

No, I previously worked in Gran Canaria as a holiday rep before working in and managing bars.





What made you choose the career you have now?

My mother worked in education from nursery to secondary school and I spent time helping in nurseries and enjoyed it, I was good at it and I could see that I could help children.

Can you tell us more about your job?

The nursery puts the children at the centre of everything we do.

We start our days by making the children feel safe and happy when entering the building and also making the parents comfortable. We strive to give the best care to the children as possible. We have group time in the morning and a time to observe in the afternoon.

We have lots of votes and conversations with the children so everything we do is relevant to them and they understand why we are doing each activity. The open plan nursery, built at Balgray Playing Fields in 2013, has a lovely outdoor space that is open to the children every day. We have staff who cover this area with activities and themes.

Who else is in your team?

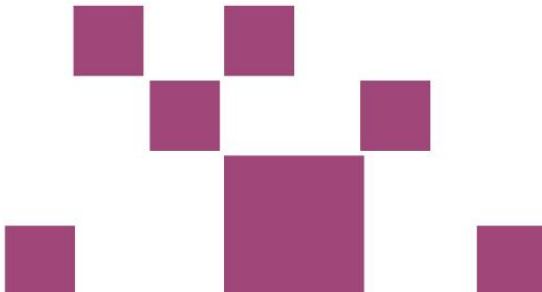
The Head of Nursery, Deputy Manager, Holiday Session Manager, five Early Years Practitioners a Support Worker and two Modern Apprentices.

What part of your job motivates you and why?

Working with children - you don't need any more motivation. They want to learn, talk, share and laugh or they may want help. It's up to us to give them the best possible start in education- not just helping with things like numbers and letters, but helping with social and emotional skills. You can make a difference every day.

Can you explain the skills and qualities you think are needed to do the role you're doing?

Good communication, not just with the children but with colleagues makes everything easier. Open, friendly body language so the children always feel safe and welcome. A good sense of humour and empathy to name a few.





Has your job opened up new learning and development for you?

Yes I hope to start my BA in early years once I get my fitness up, as I am recovering from chronic fatigue (ME).

How do you see your career progressing?

I have lots of ideas but haven't made any plans apart from doing my BA and further rugby qualifications.

What would you say to someone thinking about a career in social services?

If you're thinking about working with children go for it, you don't know what you are missing and what a difference you can make. I wish there were more males in the industry- there needs to be a better balance.

Is a career in care the career for you?

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