

YOUR GUIDE TO APPRENTICESHIPS

HINTS AND TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



July 2025

amazingapprenticeships.com

INTRODUCTION: USING THIS GUIDE

Apprenticeships have changed a huge amount in the past few years, and now offer access to almost 70% of occupations, ranging from foundation level through to degree apprenticeships.

This guide has been put together by Amazing Apprenticeships to help you explore the exciting world of apprenticeships with your child, to understand the range of resources and support services available to you, and how to access them.

We hope you find it useful. If you have any feedback or further questions, please contact:

hello@amazingapprenticeships.com

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GETTING STARTED: BUILDING YOUR KNOWLEDGE

It is challenging to try and support your child with something you aren't that sure about yourself. This page includes lots of ways you could build your knowledge about apprenticeships, before you discuss them with your child or by exploring them together.

Resources to help you

Rapid Reads

A collection of fact sheets designed to quickly inform the reader about key topics, from 'What is an apprenticeship?' to 'Apprenticeship finances'.

Find them here: amapps.uk/rapid-reads



Webinars

We deliver a range of informative webinars for teachers, careers advisers and parents and carers that provide an abundance of tips, advice, and information around the topic of apprenticeships. You can sign up for future webinars and catch up on previous webinars here:

amapps.uk/webinars



Monthly newsletters

There are two newsletters that we recommend you subscribe to:

- Monthly Parents and Carers newsletter - featuring useful content, articles and advice for parents and carers supporting their child to consider apprenticeships. Sign up here: amapps.uk/newsletter
- Vacancy Snapshot - a monthly listing featuring a variety of apprenticeship vacancies from across England. Sign up here: amapps.uk/vacancies



Social media

Follow our social media accounts to be the first to hear about new resources, information and news.



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MYTHBUSTING: DID YOU KNOW?



An apprenticeship is a real job

Available to individuals aged 16+ (with no upper age limit).



Apprentices are paid a salary

All apprentices will earn a salary, which varies a lot depending on the role, but must be at least the National Minimum Wage for apprentices, which is currently £7.55* per hour.



Duration of apprenticeships

Most apprenticeships typically take between 1 - 6 years to complete, but a new minimum duration of 8 months was introduced in August 2025.



Apprenticeships levels

Apprenticeship levels range from level 2 (foundation and intermediate) through to level 7 (master's level).



Apprentices do not pay for their training

Apprenticeship costs are paid for by the employer and/or the government, with the exception of level 7 apprentices aged 22 and over from January 2026.



Apprentices receive paid off-the-job training (OTJT)

Each apprenticeship now has its own minimum paid OTJT, which apprentices spend gaining valuable skills and qualifications.



Apprentices will spend the majority of their time on-the-job

The majority of an apprentice's paid time will be spent on-the-job, working with colleagues to learn new skills and gain experience in the workplace.



There are thousands of apprenticeship roles

New apprenticeships are advertised throughout the year covering a wide range of job roles.

70%

The range of occupations is huge

According to Government statistics, nearly 70% of occupations can now be entered via an apprenticeship.

700

There are hundreds of apprenticeships

There are now nearly 700 apprenticeship standards. Find out more about them here: amapps.uk/a-zstandards

* Correct July 2025. The National Minimum Wage for apprentices is reviewed each April.

START THE CONVERSATION: EXPLORING APPRENTICESHIPS

It is very likely that your child will have had some information shared with them about apprenticeships through their school or college. This might have included receiving an assembly, a tutorial session, hearing from a past pupil, watching a film or attending a careers fair.

If your child isn't educated in a school or college setting and hasn't received information on apprenticeships, the resources below will help you support them to find out more.

Holding open conversations to find out how much your child knows about the different career paths is a great starting point. You can then start to plan the best way to discover more about the possibilities to make an informed decision on the steps to take.

We have shared some conversation starters and suggested resources below:

How much do you already know about apprenticeships?



Assembly film

7 minute animated introduction to apprenticeships

amapps.uk/assembly-film

WATCH



Rapid Reads

A collection of short guides on all things apprenticeships

amapps.uk/rapid-reads

READ



Student zone

Explore this zone on our website - especially for students

amapps.uk/student-zone

EXPLORE

How much do you already know about the different job roles that you can do through an apprenticeship?



Apprentices are amazing film
Hear from some inspiring apprentices

amapps.uk/hero-film

WATCH



A-Z of apprenticeship standards
Explore this list of apprenticeship standards, organised alphabetically by routes.

amapps.uk/a-zstandards

READ



Apprentice stories
Explore our collection of apprentice stories to find out about different roles.

amapps.uk/apprentice-story-films

EXPLORE

Do you know about any employers who offer apprenticeships?



Meet the Employer
Find out everything you need to know about apprenticeships at top employers.

amapps.uk/mte

EXPLORE



Find an apprenticeship
Look at the vacancies advertised and find out more about the employers who offer them.

findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

SEARCH



Vacancy Snapshot
Sign up to receive our monthly vacancy mailing and read about the different employers.

amapps.uk/vacancies

READ

MAKING CONNECTIONS: APPRENTICES & EMPLOYERS

When attending live or online events about apprenticeships, you will often hear from employers, training providers and apprentices. You will have the opportunity to learn what it is like to work for the organisation and more details about the apprenticeship scheme. It is a good idea to have a list of questions ready in case they are not covered in the presentation, you could ask them at the end. Here are some questions you could ask employers and apprentices.

Questions to ask employers

- How many apprentices do you take on each year / in each cohort?
- How does the 'off-the-job' training work?
- Where is the training provider based and does the apprentice go to the training provider or does the training provider come to them?
- Why do you employ apprentices?
- What are the expectations of an apprentice when they start?
- What responsibilities will the apprentice have, and how quickly?
- Will the apprentice have a mentor or someone to shadow?
- What will happen if the apprentice falls behind with their training?
- What are the career opportunities at the end of the apprenticeship?
- What is the apprentice salary?
- How many hours per week is the apprentice expected to work?
- Where and when do you advertise your vacancies?

Questions to ask apprentices

- Why did you choose an apprenticeship?
- What do you enjoy most about your apprenticeship?
- What do you enjoy least about your apprenticeship?
- Tell us a little bit about your daily responsibilities?
- How do you find balancing the apprenticeship 'off-the-job work' and the daily job?
- What is your training provider like? How do they support you?
- How did you find the apprenticeship?
- What was the recruitment process like?
- Do you have any tips for searching for an apprenticeship?
- What are the best bits about being an apprentice?
- What career opportunities has your employer offered you?
- What are your plans for progression when you complete your current apprenticeship?

NICOLA HALL: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

5 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

Nicola Hall is the Director of Education at the Careers & Enterprise Company. Here, Nicola shares her five top tips for parents and carers who are supporting their child to explore apprenticeships and other options.



1

Be open-minded and prepared to explore a range of options with your child

You may be really surprised at what you find out. Try to put to one side your preconceptions of what you think is best, and be open to look at everything.

2

Think twice - technical or academic?

There are many quality options available within both technical and academic routes. It's important to explore all of the options that are available.

3

Think about your child's preferred learning style

It doesn't matter what their ability level is, but thinking about their learning style may help you to think about the appropriate options to explore further.

4

Use the support available to you

Don't be afraid to ask your child's school or college for support. They have a responsibility to help your child to prepare for their next steps.

5

Don't expect your child to know what they want to do

We know from research that many young people are not yet ready to select a career, and will want to try out many different career options in their lifetime.

BENEFITS OF APPRENTICESHIPS: PARENT PERSPECTIVES

"It was the best decision for my boys. They have become amazingly self-sufficient, motivated and responsible."

Sophie, whose sons Paul and Arthur are both apprentices

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"I think it's an absolutely ideal situation for young people that they can go out into the real world, get those important employability skills, but then also be learning at the same time."

Iwonka, whose daughter Kasia did an apprenticeship

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"Ben is learning on-the-job professional skills, gaining the full work experience which has let him flourish into a professional young man. All with the bonus that he will not be leaving university with debt."

Steve, whose son Ben did an apprenticeship



"It's helped her evolve as a person. It's helped her understand what work is."

Birgit, whose daughter Esme did an apprenticeship

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"If I was thinking how I could 'future proof' my kids, an apprenticeship is the way to go. They're working, they're earning money, they're learning, and they're growing as individuals."

Ranjit, whose daughter Jainna is an apprentice

READ MORE



FIND OUT MORE: WHERE TO LOOK

Amazing Apprenticeships

Discover more about apprenticeships at amazingapprenticeships.com, and in particular have a look at our Parent & Carer zone amapps.uk/parent-zone

As you explore, make sure to look out for upcoming careers and apprenticeship events and sign up for newsletters and webinars to stay up to date with the latest information (see page 1).



School or college

Your child's school or college will have a named Careers Leader (you can find this out by visiting their website). The school's careers programme should be published on their website and they will also share details through newsletters, social media and at parents and carers' evenings. The school may hold careers events for parents, carers and students to join or advertise others that are taking place in the local community. Find out more about what to expect from your child's school or college with our Rapid Read: amapps.uk/support-to-expect



The Government website - Apprenticeships.gov

The Government website has apprenticeship resources, real stories from apprentice ambassadors, plus details on how you can register and sign up for alerts to find apprenticeships. Visit: apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers



Social media

Social media is a hive of useful apprenticeship information. You can find out about different events taking place, hear from employers and apprentices, find out about apprenticeship vacancies that are recruiting and much more. When visiting company websites, check their social media details and how to follow them. Lots of employers will have specific careers social media accounts, so make sure you look out for those.

