

Evening Times Worklife

CAROL-ANNE HEBGIN,

Nursery Manager, Little Einstein's nursery, Hillside Road, Glasgow

Little Einstein's has two nurseries operating in buildings a few yards apart in the city's south side, catering for around 107 children between them. While the business has operated there for several years it has recently celebrated its first anniversary as Little Einstein's under owner Deepak Poddar, who also runs a training academy for nursery nurses across Scotland in Perth.

Describe your workplace

It's bright and cheerful, sociable and fun – and well-organised. Since we became Little Einstein's a year ago there's been a lot of investment in décor and quality new equipment too, so it's a nice place to work.

What is the dress code?

We've got a smart but comfortable and practical uniform of black trousers and white tunics – it's just a wee bit like a dentist's outfit.

Do you have any qualifications?

SVQ level 4 for manager level; nurses graduate through NNEB, HNC, SVQ level 3 and Modern Apprenticeships.

Your First Job?

I started out as a volunteer nursery nurse – seems a long time ago now!

How do you get on with colleagues?

We all get on very well indeed, and we need to because the atmosphere in the place is so important for the children – we socialise outside work too.

What has been your biggest challenge?

We have the same 'biggest challenge' every year! It's the new nursery intake – getting everybody settled, getting to know everybody – including the parents - making sure everything will go smoothly for the year ahead.

What skills do you need?

Patience, enthusiasm, a sense of humour and creativity.

What has been your career highlight?

My promotion some time back to nursery manager – a lot of responsibility but one that has given me a great deal of job satisfaction.

Where do you see yourself in the future?

I've often thought about one day working overseas, ideally in Turkey – a country I love.

What advice would you give to those looking at a similar career?

You can never get enough experience – get involved any way you can, and find out if it is really the job for you: then you can start thinking about the qualifications you'll need and the commitment you'll need to show to make it a reality.

Have you ever worked abroad?

No, but as I say it's an ambition – if I find the right kind of job at the right time in the right place. At the moment there's plenty to be going on with!

What do you do to unwind?

I love socialising, and that's my main leisure time way of unwinding – quite often with other members of staff here.

What would be your fantasy job?

As I've said I love Turkey, and a job there involved in some aspect of the hospitality industry could suit my skills very nicely – I couldn't wish for more than that.

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