

Name: Katy Chaplin

Age: 40

Year graduated from Ousedale: 1996

What qualifications did you gain at Ousedale?

GCSEs – Passed all exams

Did you pursue any Further or Higher education? College/Apprenticeship/University/study while working

I went straight to Milton Keynes College following my GCSEs to complete a certificate in Childcare and Education which I passed with merit. This allowed me to continue onto NNEB which is now the L3 Diploma in Childcare.

What was your career aspiration while you were at school? If your career path changed what changed your mind?

I knew I wanted to work with children but I was unsure in what area.

What did you enjoy most about your school life at Ousedale?

Friend circles, extra activities and support from my tutor.

Current job title and description of your role?

Nursery Practitioner - Working with 1-2 year olds

How did you achieve this role?

When I left Ousedale School I studied at Childcare and Education Milton Keynes College for 2 years. In my second year I had a family placement. This family asked if I would like to stay once I had completed my course as their full time Nanny. I worked for them for a year until the Mum fell pregnant with their third child; she asked me to find a temporary job while she was on maternity leave. I started working in a Nursery and decided to stay. I have been working in the same nursery, for the same company for 20 years and still love my job!

I have gained NVQs in communication and customer service whilst here and have experience lots of different training though the job including first aid, child protection, food hygiene and an NVQ L3 for Team leader position.

I have progressed my career stepping up as a team leader but stepped back down after having my children. My hours have also changed with my needs from 40 hours per week, down to 25 hours per week and then back up to 30 hours per week as my family commitments have changed. It nice to work in a job that allows this sort of flexibility. The company I work for offers career progression and opportunities to suit all staff. My role now consists of care and education for the children, care routines, key person duties, parent relationships, providing a stimulating environment and activities for each child, support for children, parents and other team members.

Photo of you in your workplace



What advice would you give our current students about the world of work?
Explore all avenues, talk to and visit companies, take the opportunity to gain as many qualifications as possible, enjoy the journey.....it goes very quickly.