

Challenge: Apprenticeship for a Day!



This year, 8th-14th February will be National Apprenticeships Week, but did you know what an 'apprenticeship' is? An apprentice is someone who learns a job by doing it and training with a person who already does that job. You may have heard of them as they're quite common today. February is not the only time we can learn about Apprenticeships though, so here's a challenge that will get you thinking and learning all about apprenticeships and maybe even having a go at being an apprentice for a day! An apprenticeship is something where you learn all about the role and develop the skills you'll need, at the same time as brushing up on your English and Maths skills (if you need to). You'll be shadowing staff in a company who are already doing that job, and you'll be getting paid at the same time. You must be at least 16 to do an apprenticeship, as this is one of the options you can do after leaving school.

You will need:
- Depends on your 'job'!

People can be an apprentice to learn to be all sorts of jobs like plumbers, electricians, builders, hair stylists, secretaries, IT developers, shop workers, teachers, sports coaches...and so on. In fact, think of a job and you can probably be an apprentice in that role. It's a great way to learn all the skills you'll need in that role, as well as being paid at the same time. In the olden days, children who didn't go to school were apprentice street cleaners!

You'll need to be really focussed on what you want to learn – the more you learn about the job now, the better and more confident you'll be when you finish your apprenticeship and start doing the job 'for real.' So, enjoy your day as an apprentice!



Step 1: Ask an adult to let you be their apprentice for the day! It might be round the house, so ask to shadow them and get them to explain and demonstrate everything they're doing. It might be cooking, cleaning, doing the washing, maybe even booking some appointments, or working out some money to buy something, or perhaps it's something outdoors (checking a car's oil, water, etc., following a map) – it could be anything as long as you're learning along the way!

Step 2: They might forget to explain things to you. Remind them you're their apprentice! The best apprenticeships work when the expert takes time to explain things step by step – why they're doing something, how they're doing it, how to check it's been done correctly, etc. Watch a few times at first, then have a go with them supporting you. Maybe you'll become so good you're able to try something by yourself?

Step 3: Think about what you've learned today. Would you like to do any of those jobs in the future? What skills will you need to keep developing? And importantly, will you get paid for today's work? Maybe even a small treat?

Which skills will I be developing?

