Hello, my name is Danielle and I’m an Early Years Practitioner working in one of the Sure Start Children’s Centres in West Northumberland.

I’m fairly new to my job and working in a Sure Start setting, having been in post for just over a year, but I am so happy I took up the role and would recommend it to any Practitioner who enjoys working with young children and families.

Why...well, I came from a structured childcare background which was very much based around routines and delivered from one base; whilst routines are important in many areas of supporting children and families, one of the things I love about my role is that every day is different and I work with children and families both within the Children’s Centre and on an outreach basis.

I’m involved in lots of different activities, such as planning and running my own weekly sessions from our universal programme, as well as working in a targeted group or one-to-one way with families in their own home or in the Children’s Centre or in another community setting (or, sometimes from the playvan if I feel this is the best way to meet the needs of some children and families, especially in our more rural settings).

But, it’s not just about what I put in, it’s what I’m able to get back from Northumberland County Council to progress my personal development and career path. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to participate in a number of learning and training opportunities. One exciting area I have accessed is to be trained in the HENRY Programme so I can be a Facilitator delivering this exceptional programme to parents/carers. This is one of my stand out achievements - a year ago I would never have thought this was something I could achieve., but I have a very supportive management structure and helpful colleagues to help me to realise my potential. There is a strong culture of encouraging personal growth and professional development. We work in small teams and take pride in the aspiration we have for each other to succeed.

We have recently started a wonderful journey across the West Locality to create nurturing calm environments (indoors and out) to make the best use of our natural resources and we have set out a shared pledge to work with children and families in a way which encourages the best learning environments for children, families, partners and staff alike.

Now is an exciting time to join Sure Start Children’s Centres in the West Locality and come be a part of helping us to make a real difference...bring your experience, skills, knowledge and passion for seeking to achieve the best outcomes for children and their families!

If you would like to speak with me or one of my colleagues in more detail, please call me at Western Tynedale Children’s Centre on 01434 321761