



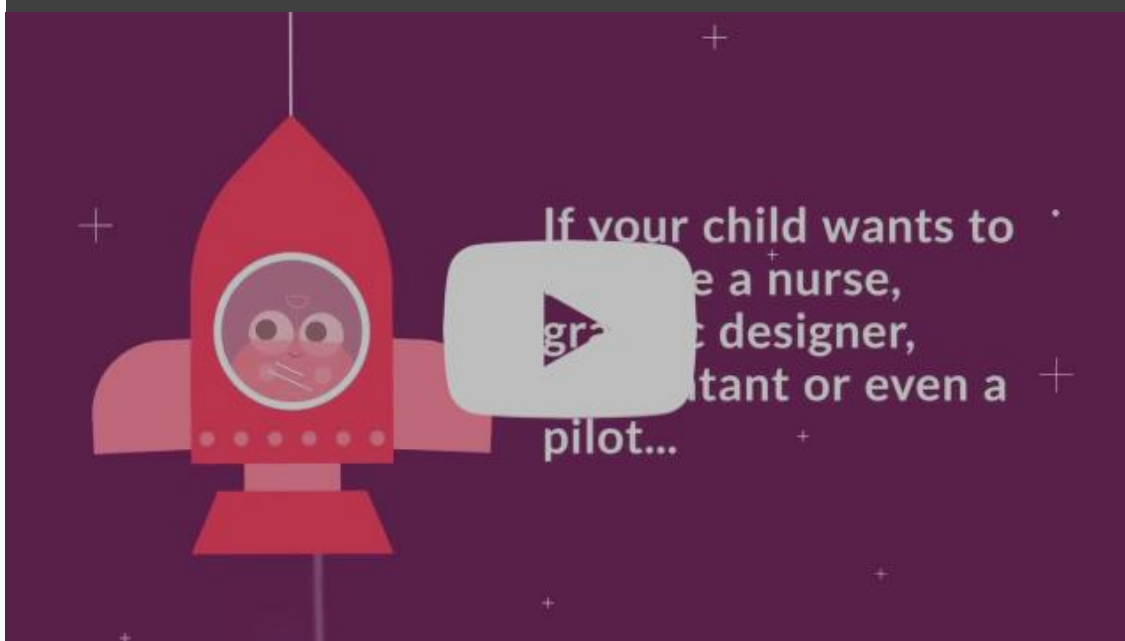
A parent's guide to apprenticeships

You've almost certainly heard about apprenticeships by now. But if you think they're second best to a university degree, you've been misinformed!

Apprenticeships can be a pathway to a degree – paid for in full by the employer while your child earns a wage.

In this article, we define apprenticeships, go through the different types, compare them to university, explore some of the programmes available, look at how much your child can expect to earn and explain how to help your child find an apprenticeship.

Check out our video guide to apprenticeships:



What is an apprenticeship?

An [apprenticeship](#) is a job with training and the chance to gain qualifications. As with any job, an apprentice gets paid, but they also take part in formal on-the-job training and study for relevant qualifications linked to their role.

Qualifications are paid for by the employer. Apprentices do not pay anything towards their qualifications.

Types of apprenticeship

There are four levels of apprenticeship:

- [Intermediate](#) – level 2 – equivalent to 5 GCSEs.
- [Advanced](#) – level 3 – equivalent to 2 A-levels.
- [Higher](#) – level 4-7 – equivalent to a certificate of higher education or foundation degree right the way up to a master's degree (mostly give a bachelor's degree).
- [Degree](#) – level 6-7 – guarantees a bachelor's or master's degree on successful completion.

If your child doesn't have any GCSEs, they can often apply for an intermediate apprenticeship anyway. They can study for GCSEs or the equivalent [functional skills qualifications](#) alongside their apprenticeship. So very few students are barred from taking on an apprenticeship.

Apprentices can gain all manner of qualifications from an apprenticeship. [Here is a guide](#) outlining some of the most common.

Apprenticeships versus uni

Have a look at this video summarising the different benefits university and apprenticeships can offer:

[View video and rest of article on website](#)