

#mityey

Men In The Early Years

Case study

**Name**

Max Moorcock

Age

45

Job title

Early years manager, Queen Mary University of London

What does your job involve?

I manage the Westfield Nursery, which looks after children aged 3 months to 5 years. We have 65 places for children of staff and students of Queen Mary, and others outside the college.

What was your career path?

At 19 I went to university in the USA for 4 years – mainly because I wanted to play American football. But I ended up studying child development – one of only 2 men out of 300 in my year. After returning to the UK, I taught in a private school for a year and then in 1995 started working in nurseries. In 2001 I became a manager, and I've been in my current role for 7 years.

What's the best thing about your job?

It's the fact that I'm moulding personalities – helping shape little human beings. I wanted to do something where I could look back and feel like I'd made a difference. When I was younger, people were always pressuring me to get a 'proper' career, and a lot of the time my friends have made more money than me. But when I see all the children's faces each morning, I feel like I've got no regrets.

What's the worst thing?

Sometimes the attitudes of people from outside the industry annoy me. People do still look down on Early Years and the low status is reflected in our pay. But if all you wanted was money you wouldn't go into this kind of job anyway.

What advice would you give men thinking about going into Early Years?

Follow your heart and stick with it. I'm not going to say there aren't issues for men in this work. But you can make a great job for yourself, whether you want to stay working with the kids or, like me, go into management.