



Spotlight on Multi-Trade Apprentice, Sophie Fields

Why did you choose to begin an apprenticeship with Mears?

Beginning an apprenticeship within the social housing sector has always interested me. I've heard of Mears as I live close to the Rotherham branch, and I've always been intrigued about the company. I checked the website and found the perfect opportunity for me. Their values and commitments to diversity and inclusion also stood out and went above the other companies I was looking at.

What do you enjoy most about your apprenticeship?

I can be myself around everyone. I am treated equally, and no one considers me any different because I'm a female learning a trade.

What advice would you give anyone thinking about taking on an apprenticeship?

Go for it! It's better to learn and get paid rather than just going to college. You also develop practical skills from experts in the industry, which will help to boost your career. There is also a better opportunity to gain a permanent job at the end.

What are you looking forward to learning during the rest of your apprenticeship?

Gaining new skills in all trades rather than just one. As a Multi-Trade Apprentice no day is the same. There is so much variety in my role and I love that I'm developing my skills in all trades.

What do you think about Mears' apprenticeship opportunity?

It's fantastic! Mears provide you with everything you need including uniform, PPE, tools, Health and Safety information and college provision, whilst also getting paid. Overall, I would 100% recommend beginning an apprenticeship at Mears.

What does a typical day look like during your apprenticeship?

I am picked up by my colleague and then we go straight to either the property or the merchants. We then get on with the jobs required. There is so much variety in my role, one day I could be tiling a kitchen and fitting a sink the next I am installing an internal door and changing locks – I love it! Some jobs are more complex than others and I could spend an entire day carrying out one task whereas other days I could complete several smaller tasks. I usually take my break with my colleagues, eating lunch together and making time for a good chat.

What skills have you developed since starting your apprenticeship?

I have learnt a lot since beginning my apprenticeship with Mears. One of the main skills I've developed is communication. Effective communication has helped me feel comfortable expressing myself and letting my mentor know if I don't understand something. I will now always ask questions when I need to.

I have also built good working relationships with my mentors and other colleagues. I am grateful for the support I've received, and I've made some long-term friendships along the way.

I now take responsibility for the jobs I deliver and learn from my mistakes. By doing this my work has really improved and has allowed me to understand processes better.

Lastly and most importantly, I have developed the practical skills I need to excel in my career. I now have the knowledge in a wide range of areas including joinery, plumbing, tiling and plastering as well as the ability to multi-task from one job to another.

Learn more about our apprenticeships on our website here:

<https://careers.mearsgroup.co.uk/apprenticeships>

