

A Quick Guide to supporting your young person to get ready and started on their industry placement

Parents, carers and other trusted adults often ask how they can best support their young person as they prepare for and begin an industry placement. This short guide shares practical suggestions based on what those involved tell us works well in practice and is intended to be helpful rather than prescriptive.



Supporting a young person starting a T Level industry placement

An industry placement is often a young person's first real experience of the workplace. It can feel like a big step. They do not need to be perfect, but they will need support, encouragement and sometimes a nudge.

Some students may also be encouraged to approach employers, attend interviews or help explore placement opportunities themselves. This is designed to help build confidence, independence and real-world employability skills, with support available from the school or college throughout.

Why industry placements matter

Industry Placements give young people the opportunity to experience a real workplace, build confidence and independence, develop skills that employers value, and gain insight into future careers.

They form a required part of a T Level programme and students must successfully complete the industry placement element, including the required hours, as part of achieving their qualification. For many young people, this is the first time they will experience the expectations and routines of a real working environment.



What to expect (and why it may feel different)

Working hours may be different from school or college and expectations are often higher, with young people treated more like a new employee and part of a team.

Employers are giving their time, expertise and support to provide this opportunity. Although placements are generally unpaid, they are a structured and important part of the T Level programme designed to prepare young people for future careers.





What employers are really looking for

Employers are not expecting young people to know everything. They are looking for reliability, a positive attitude, willingness to learn, basic communication and effort. These things matter more than technical knowledge at the start.

Employers also expect young people to communicate professionally, arrive on time, let someone know if there is a problem and show respect for workplace expectations.

These may sound like small things, but they are often what employers remember most positively about a placement experience.



How you can support them

Help them plan travel and timings if needed, encourage responsibility and independence, talk about workplace expectations such as communication, punctuality, attendance and professional behaviour. If you can, support their confidence without taking over.

Students will also be supported by their school or college to understand how to communicate professionally with employers and colleagues.

A different kind of support

Sometimes the most helpful support is helping them **step forward independently**, while knowing someone is still behind them.

It is natural to want to protect your young person.

At the same time, this is a chance for them to take responsibility and grow in confidence.



If something does not go to plan

Encourage them to speak to their employer or contact their school or college - there are people ready to support. **Most issues can be resolved quickly when addressed early.**

Occasionally, placements may need additional support or, in some cases, may end earlier than planned if expectations or behaviours are not being met. Open communication and early action usually help avoid this.

Learning how to deal with challenges and setbacks is also an important part of developing confidence and resilience.

What helps placements go well...

- reliability
- communication
- punctuality
- independence
- asking for help early



Final thought

A T Level industry placement is a real opportunity.

With the right balance of support and independence, young people can develop workplace skills, career insight and valuable experience for their CV, personal statement and future.