



CHILDREN'S TV SKILLS FUND

Developing a world-class
UK drama workforce for children's TV

What is the Children's TV Skills Fund?

The children's TV live-action levy was created in 2015 following the introduction of UK tax relief for children's live-action TV. In return for the tax credit the industry agreed that those utilising the tax credit would contribute to a skills fund managed by ScreenSkills.

The key purpose of the fund is to fund skills activity to develop freelancers and talent working at all levels in children's TV, in order to advance their careers as well as bring new entrants into the industry. This activity aims to increase and upskill the children's TV workforce in the UK.

Productions pay 0.5% of the production budget spent in the UK, and the levy is capped at just over £40,000 per production. Since 2015, ScreenSkills has collected and invested over £500,000 in skills activity for the children's TV industry.

The earlier that children's TV productions commit to contributing to the levy the more opportunities they could benefit from. Levy payment does not have to coincide with your application for tax credit.

Over 50 productions have contributed so far, including

Hank Zipster, Officially Amazing, Ice Stars, The Worst Witch, Joe All Alone, Horrible Histories, Art Ninja, Teacup Travels, Apple Tree House, Do You Know?, Hetty Feather, Gory Games, Operation Ouch!, Millie Inbetween, Treasure Champs, Deadly Dinosaurs, Gym Stars, The Secret Life of Boys, Top Class and several from the My Life strand.

Children's TV council

Decisions on how the levy funds are spent are made by the Children's TV Council, which is made up of industry leaders in the sector. These include broadcasters as well as key figures from production, who use their direct industry experience to determine the most effective use of funds as well as utilising up-to-date research on industry skills gaps.

The Council members are:

- Val Ames, Kindle Entertainment (co-chair)
- Richard Bradley, Lion TV (co-chair)
- Louise Bucknole, VIMN Kids
- Sally Carroll, BBC Children's preschool, drama and animation
- Blake Chaplin, 7 Wonder
- Rachel Drummond-Hay, Drummer TV
- Gwen Hughes, Zodiak Kids
- Raymond Lau, Green Dragon Media
- Lynne Marriott, BBC Children's in-house productions
- Mike Watts, Novel Entertainment

If you are interested in joining the Council please contact [Sarah Joyce](#)

How can we help you?

We offer access to a range of skills support and funding for training:

- For production companies to help develop their workforces
- For individuals to begin, grow or advance their careers in children's TV

Training and support programmes are delivered both in-house and externally by industry-recognised training providers.

The following pages outline the current programmes available in 2018/19.

Make a Move

Funding is available to enable those production companies which contribute to the Children's TV Skills Fund to provide ambitious in-house training. Applications can be submitted to support training needed for an active production or for the skills development of your staff/business.

Funding is available towards the cost of employing and training individuals identified by productions as ready to move up into a more senior role with a little support. The aim is that by the end of the training the individual will already be in, or able to apply for, their next job at the next grade up.

Examples include a location assistant moving up to unit manager, make-up artist to make-up supervisor, production co-ordinator to production manager or producer to series producer.

The scheme covers all departments on a production:

- Individuals on Make a Move are not trainees, but part of a scheme to encourage and promote professional development
- Those put forward for the scheme need to be a professional who is deemed ready to move up to their next career grade
- They can be a completely new person to the team and department, or an individual that has already worked with the team on a previous production

How much funding is available?

Fund-contributing productions can apply for up to £10,000 per production.

This is match-funded with investment from the production/company. In-kind contributions are acceptable as match funding.

In partnership with high-end TV there is £2,500 of additional funding available until 31 March 2019 to support companies or productions wanting to step someone up in a production management role.

Please contact [Sarah Joyce](#) for more details.

What can be funded?

The funding is flexible and can be used to cover:

- Salaries
- Travel and accommodation expenses
- Mentoring
- Shadowing
- Attending short courses

Funding can be used to support one or more people on the production across any department.

What can't be funded?

- We are unable to fund retrospective claims. Apply in good time to allow us to process the associated paperwork
- We are unable to fund individuals who are already working within the grade they are about to move up to, unless there is a robust case that the 'moving up' will mean they are working differently
- Individuals can only participate in Make a Move after being put forward by their employer.



Trainee Finder

Trainee Finder is an entry-level placement scheme which places trainees on UK TV drama productions. Trainees will become part of an industry-recognised group of trainees, receiving exclusive access to training placements on children's TV drama and high-end TV drama shot in the UK.

Since its launch, Trainee Finder has placed trainees on numerous children's TV drama productions across the UK, including *The Worst Witch*, *Joe All Alone*, *Katy*, *Millie Inbetween*, *Creeped Out*, *The A list*, *Horrible Histories* and *the Secret Life of Boys*.

We currently have 81 trainees from across the UK who are available to work on levy-paying drama productions within the following grades:

- Art department
- Camera
- Costume
- Edit
- Floor runner
- Hair and make-up
- Locations



Horrible Histories © Lion TV

- Production office runner

Each of the trainees has been interviewed by an industry professional working in the chosen department, and has taken part in an induction course before their placements begin.

Every trainee will also take part in the Trainee Finder pastoral care programme, which will include valuable additional training including health and safety on set, supporting a carbon neutral production and finance for freelancers.

How much funding is available?

- Please contact us in the first instance to talk about your requirements
- Once you have confirmed your contribution to the skills fund we will send you details of available trainees
- We are able to support three trainees per production from listed departments*
- Placements per trainee should be 8 weeks long
- We prefer productions to take three trainees and offer each an eight-week placement, however do let us know if you require more flexibility i.e. two trainees for twelve weeks
- Trainees are engaged by the production on a fixed-term contract and paid via payroll with all the usual deductions
- Children's TV productions can claim back up to £250 per week of a trainee's salary
- Whilst on production, the trainee must be supported by a supervisor within the department
- **We ask that productions release trainees for training days**

* No subsidy for grades outside these departments is available. If we are unable to offer a trainee from the pool due to them being on other placements, we are happy to discuss potential new trainees who could join the scheme, subject to interview.

How to apply

For more details and to apply for a trainee, please contact our Trainee Finder Manager [Patrizia Berardi](#).



Get the Knowledge

A brand-new course about how to make great programmes for - and with - children!

This fantastic practical workshop is presented by Alison Cresswell, the UK's leading expert on working with children.

The aim of this course is to encourage creativity and understanding in the production of media content for children.

Set at introductory/refresher level, the course covers all the basics of creating and producing TV content for children, from initial idea to recording. It will appeal to those who want to work in children's TV and those who may need a refresher on the basics. It will also be useful for people working in children's TV but who want to learn more about key production skills and duties.

For dates and further information contact [Grand Scheme Media](#).



“Really informative and engaging. Loved that the course was split into practical, legal, etc. on day one and content focused on day two.”

- Course participant London -

“So informative. Fantastic course. Amazing tutors. Best training I've received in Northern Ireland to date.”

- Course participant Belfast -

“It's made me feel that working in children's TV is more achievable”

- Course participant Manchester -

For dates and further information contact Grand Scheme Media.



The Skills Passport

Launched in spring 2018, the Skills Passport is a new online resource tool, designed to encourage professionals working in TV drama to upskill and progress.

The Skills Passport is a comprehensive short course database, searchable by skill and job level, to create a centralised, organised resource for TV drama professionals looking to fill their skills gaps and find training which is relevant to them.

The digital pass badge

When a professional completes a course listed on Skills Passport, they will be offered a digital pass badge which can be kept on a phone and/or the online profile page. This will help professionals to build up a training history which they will be able to show future employers and demonstrate their acquired skills.

What grades does it support?

Skills Passport will initially focus on **production office and craft and tech grades working** in the TV drama sector. Additionally, it will include training relevant to everyone working in high-end TV including Leadership and Management courses, Carbon Literacy, Health & Safety etc.

Will future employers recognise the Skills Passport?

ScreenSkills will actively market the programme directly to Production Companies and Heads of Department in order to encourage working professionals to view Skills Passport as a useful tool for upskilling, and as a mark of achievement in relevant training for those they hire in the future.

How do I access the Skills Passport?

Please visit screenskills.com/education-training/skills-passport or contact the Skills Passport manager Leanne Fairbrother on leanne.fairbrother@screenskills.com

Training programmes in partnership with high-end TV from 2017/18

The growth of big budget, large scale drama in the UK as a result of the high-end TV tax credit, has had an effect on the availability of crew able to work on children's TV drama productions; it has also had an impact on how quickly people advance. In recognition of this, HETV works with children's TV to ensure access to relevant training opportunities are available to those working or looking to work in children's drama.

In 2017/18 those making and working in children's drama benefitted from access to the following training opportunities:

Mastering programmes for broadcast from Digital Production Partnership

Training for heads of production and post production professionals to understand the impact of broadcasters' requirements for commissioning and programme deliverables.



The Worst Witch © BBC CPL & ZDF-Enterprises 2018

Return to work for TV freelancers with Media Parents

For production freelancers wishing to return to work after a career break.

Production accounting training from Production Guild

An intensive five-day course to help those working as assistant production accountants move up to the position of production accountant.

Director stepping up scheme for TV drama with NFTS

Ten-month programme which started in February 2018.

Line producers training with the Indie Training Fund

An intensive five-day course with mentoring aimed at aspiring line producers looking to step up in children's drama or move across from another genre. Training takes place in June 2018.

RED Camera workshops from Guild of British Camera Technicians

Introduces participants to the RED WEAPON 8K S35 (which has the new HELIUM sensor), its set up, use and workflow. Consists of a series of demonstrations, discussions and very practical shooting exercises.

Please note: many of these training programmes have now concluded.

For the most up to date details on programmes open to children's TV participants in 2018/19, please visit the [children's TV page](#) of the ScreenSkills website.



Contact

To keep up to date with our opportunities or to apply for funding, please get in touch.

For Trainee Finder, contact:

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For Skills Passport, contact:

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