



Malory Towers © BBC/WildBrain/Queen Bert Limited/Steve Wilkie

CHILDREN'S TV SKILLS FUND

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

What is the Children's TV Skills Fund?

The Children's TV Skills Fund (commonly known as the 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 contribution is capped at £43,900 per production. Since 2015, ScreenSkills has collected and invested over £800,000 in skills activity for the children's TV industry.

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

More than 120 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*, *Malory Towers*, *Our School*, *The Dumping Ground*, *So Awkward*, *Restaurant Dream Team*, *Something Special*, *The Baby Club*, *Get Even* and several from the *My Life* strand.



The Worst Witch ©
BBC CPL & ZDF Enterprises 2018

Children's TV council

Decisions on how the 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:

- Richard Bradley, Lion TV (co-chair)
- Val Ames, production consultant (co-chair)
- Gavin Haplin, Paper Owl
- Gwen Hughes, Zodiac Kids
- John Knowles, BFI Young Audiences Content Fund
- Louise Bucknole, VIMN Kids
- Lynne Marriott, BBC Children's in-house productions
- Mike Watts, Novel Entertainment
- Rachel Drummond-Hay, Drummer TV
- Raymond Lau, Green Dragon Media
- Sally Carroll, BBC Children's preschool, drama and animation
- Simon Tomkins, ITV
- Sioned Wyn Roberts, S4C
- Terri Langan, Hello Halo Kids

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 2020/21.

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 location manager, researcher to AP, production co-ordinator to production manager or a 2nd AD taking the step up to 1st AD.

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.

Please contact [Sarah Joyce](#) or visit [the website](#) 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*, *Class Dismissed*, *So Awkward*, *The Dumping Ground*, *Andy and the Band*, *Hetty Feather*, *Mimi on a Mission* and *the Secret Life of Boys*.

We currently have around 120 trainees from across the UK who are available to work on Skills Fund-contributing drama productions within the following grades:

- art department
- camera
- costume
- edit
- floor runner
- hair and make-up
- locations
- production office
- sound



Step Up To The Plate © BBC/Lion Television Ltd

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 up to 12 weeks long
- We prefer productions to take three trainees and offer each a 12-week placement, however do let us know if you require more flexibility i.e. two trainees for 24 weeks
- Trainees are engaged by the production on a fixed-term contract and paid via payroll with all the usual deductions
- The Children's TV Skills Fund will contribute £250 per week towards each 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 about Trainee Finder, read the [FAQs](#) on the website.

To apply for a trainee, please contact Nicky Ball at nicky.ball@screenskills.com, or give her a call on 07432 591 375.

Bursaries

The Children's TV Skills Fund is offering bursaries to professionals, at all stages of their career, who would like to attend training to develop their skills and increase career opportunities within children's TV.

Individuals can apply for the cost of training as well as other related costs such as travel, accommodation, care and disability access costs.

For further details visit screenskills.com/bursaries.



Get the Knowledge

A bespoke course designed in partnership with industry about how to make great programmes for - and with - children.

This fantastic practical workshop is presented by Alison Cresswell, an 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](https://www.grandschememedia.co.uk).



"Really beneficial, great source of knowledge and information that I know I couldn't find myself. Such good advice and excellent mentors"

- Roisin O'Callaghan, a freelancer from Nottingham -

"The quality of your experience and insight was great. It was really useful and interesting. It has inspired me and given me more confidence and motivation".

- Nicole Joseph, a freelancer from Bradford -

"I found the course extremely useful. It offers practical advice for working with Children on productions as well as insights into the childrens content marketplace. The tutors Mark and Alison are extremely knowledgeable and delivered the information in an engaging way. I would highly recommend this course."

- Jenny Williams, producer and company manager at Pirate Productions, Glasgow -



Apple Tree House © Five Apples Ltd

Other training opportunities

Visit the [ScreenSkills opportunities directory](#) and [resources directory](#) to discover the full range of training courses, online events, resources and online learning modules currently available, including:

- [Coronavirus basic awareness on production training](#): online learning module which addresses issues now facing TV and film production and sets out how to reduce the risk of spreading the virus on set.
- [Tips for safe production](#): a visual digest of the relevant industry guidance on working in the coronavirus pandemic.
- [Tackling harassment and bullying at work](#): online learning module designed to help you recognise and address harassment and bullying behaviours in yourself and others

You can also find out more about the benefits of mentoring and sign up to the ScreenSkills mentoring programme [here](#). We also offer resources and support to companies interested in setting up their own mentoring programmes.



Gym Stars © Drummer TV



What people say about us

"Without ScreenSkills I don't believe I would have had the consistent work experiences I have had. It's been through meeting people on placements that I've received other jobs."

- Vicki Mohan, Trainee Finder, production buyer trainee -

"Make a Move has enabled us to retain and accelerate the progression of production talent who without the training grant we would have been at risk of losing. One of our trainees came to us on work placement three years ago whilst still at uni and it is down to Make a Move that we still have her working with us today as a shooting AP."

- Rachel Drummond, Drummer TV -

"Trainee Finder has given me the confidence to take the first steps in changing my career into one that I am passionate about".

- Jennifer Harris, Trainee Finder, production office runner trainee -



Contact

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

For Trainee Finder, contact:

nicky.ball@screenskills.com

For information about all other programmes contact:

sarah.joyce@screenskills.com or call her at 07966 428 615

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