

By MOLLY POWELL

PA Real Life

A WARWICKSHIRE teenager who has 'played with LEGO all his life' now gets paid to do it - at Legoland itself.

Oscar Goodhand-Wyatt has fulfilled a childhood dream after landing a role as an assistant master model builder at Legoland Discovery Centre Birmingham.

The 17-year-old said his first memory is, aged four, playing with the bricks for five hours at his grandmother's house. Now the Alcester resident gets to do it and be paid £11 an hour too.

Oscar recalls watching the LEGO movie at age seven, and has played with Lego "every day since", building around 150 constructions to date. Remarkably, in the last seven years, before getting his dream job, he visited Legoland for every birthday, plus an additional three trips "just for fun".

His favourite build has been the 7500-piece Star Wars Millennium Falcon, which took him 23 days, and he even makes up his own designs, such as dragons and robots. When his mum spotted the advertisement for a professional LEGO builder earlier this year, she sent it straight to him.

She then 'freaked out' when he secured the job, helping to organise Lego bricks and teaching people how to build - which he finds very 'rewarding'.

"For me it's not about the money. I'm so obsessed with Lego - I couldn't believe my luck when I got the job," Oscar told PA Real Life. "I can't believe my dream job exists, and it's so rewarding to help others and be in a workplace where others share the same passion as me."

Oscar said he has loved playing with Lego for as long as he can remember. "I've been playing with it all of my life, and I've always been obsessed with Lego," he said. "But, my first proper memory of it is at my nan's house - we had a giant yellow box of it and I used to spend like five hours playing with it."

"I remember watching the Lego movie when I was about seven and it encouraged me even more - I think I've probably played with it every day since and I've built around 150 things."

"I've even been to Legoland 10 times - I've been for every birthday in the last seven years, and another three times just for fun."

On why he loves Lego so much, he said: "I think (it) always helped me explore my creativity if that makes sense - I follow the instructions but I also make my own creations."

Oscar explained his unique builds, saying: "LEGO lets me make all sorts of sci-fi things - I

# Teen who has 'played with LEGO all his life' now getting paid to do it



build giant spaceships, robots and dragons popping out of my bedroom wall. I look at designs of dragons from films and make them look quite cartoonish, then I hang it up from a nail where a photo used to be in my room.

"My room is covered in LEGO builds, and I find it quite therapeutic."

On the Millennium Falcon, which he built on his sixteenth birthday, he said: "It took me 23 days, and I was so happy to finish it and have it on display on my shelf." Oscar said he jumped at the chance to work in his "dream role" at Birmingham Legoland.

"My mum saw a post about it on Facebook whilst I was packing for holiday, and she sent me the link to it," he explained.

"I was like, 'I'm applying' straight away as it was honestly

my dream role." Oscar applied for the role online, had an interview, and participated in a LEGO building competition. He explained: "In the interview, they asked me things like how will the job help me, why do I want to work for LEGO, and I just said a lot about the creative aspect of it."

"In the competition, I built a spaceship and an axolotl on the spot. The axolotl looked a bit more like a pineapple mixed with a frog, and it took me about 20 minutes. The spaceship took me about half an hour because I added little spinning features, pointy bits and 2D cannons - it was very cool to build."

When Oscar got the job, he was "over the moon", and his loved ones were very happy for him.

He explained: "I got told I got the job when I was at college, so

I texted my mum and she kind of freaked out.

"When I got home, my family started jumping up and down screaming for me. My friends' reactions were a bit mixed - they didn't quite understand it at first, but when I explained it to them, they said it was very cool."

Oscar began his job at the beginning of October 2023 working weekends and the occasional weekday depending on when he is in college. Day-to-day, Oscar maintains and creates new showpieces, organises LEGO, and teaches children how to build.

"I get to work at around half eight in the morning, and I head up to the main area where you build stuff, and I sort the bricks so they're in the correct areas," he explained.

"At about half 10, I start working on creative workshops - people pay £5 for us to teach children how to build, they build it, and then they take it home with them. We give them a step-by-step road map of how to build it, and that's really fun - my younger brother took part recently and I loved seeing the look on his face when he finished the build."

Looking to the future, Oscar's dream role would be continuing to work for LEGO, helping them design new sets, saying: "I would love it so much - my job has really helped me with my college work too."

A VIBRANT AFFAIR  
Patience would like her funeral to be in keeping with her culture



## 'I attended funerals that were full of joy'

WHEN Patience Chigodora was growing up in Zimbabwe, funerals were a fact of life.

They were sad occasions but also full of joy as her family came together in colourful dresses, sang songs and created memorable feasts in honour of their loved ones.

Now living in Nottingham, the memories of attending a funeral almost every month have stayed strong with Patience and have shaped her own wishes. The 30-year-old said: "In Zimbabwe, we had a huge extended family so cousins of cousins would attend. Although there was remorse, I think, culturally, it was more about socialising and celebrating the person's life."

Talking about your funeral could be one of the most sensitive conversations you ever have with a loved one. And, unlike Patience, around 18 million people in the UK don't want to think about death or funeral planning. To help address this, we've teamed up with Co-op Funeralcare and Global Radio to launch a new 'Let's Start Talking' campaign to encourage people to speak openly.

Patience, a spiritual teacher, added: "I envision a sunset, a candle-lit ceremony amidst Zimbabwe's natural beauty, gazing over water and lush green fields. Following cremation, I wish for a portion of my ashes to be placed next to my dad's grave, accompanied by a gospel choir. A vibrant celebration will ensue, embracing music and food, with a colourful dress code."



### STARTING CONVERSATIONS

Don't miss our new Let's Start Talking podcast, hosted by Coleen Nolan. It's all part of our campaign to get people feeling more comfortable talking about death and funeral wishes.

Celebrities including TV presenter Eamonn Holmes, UK mental health ambassador Dr Alex George, and Dr Amir Khan will be starting the conversation by revealing what they'd like for their own funeral when the day comes. Download it now from iTunes, Spotify or Google Play.



Talking now helps your loved ones later. For help starting your conversation, visit



[coop.co.uk/conversation](https://coop.co.uk/conversation)

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