

# Children's Play, Learning and Development

Qualification: BTEC National Extended Certificate  
(equivalent to 1 A-Level)



## Subject overview

The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development offers a broad basis of study of the early years' sector. It is generally taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning. It will enable learners to progress to a wide range of degree programmes. The qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. It can be taken alongside, for example:

- A-Levels in Biology and Psychology, which could lead to a BSc (Hons) in Paediatric Nursing
- A-Levels in English and Psychology, which could lead to a BA (Hons) in Childhood Studies
- A-Levels in English and History, which could lead to a BA (Hons) in Primary Education

You will attend a placement within at least one setting, with children from birth to seven years, 11 months. 50 hours of placement will be completed, spread out over the two years.

## Year One Course Content

### Unit 1: Child Development (exam)

- Demonstrate knowledge of the principles and patterns, theories and models that inform children's growth and development from birth to seven years, 11 months
- Demonstrate understanding of the principles and patterns, theories and models that inform children's growth and development from birth to seven years, 11 months
- Apply knowledge and understanding of children's growth and development to real life scenarios from birth to seven years, 11 months
- Analyse and evaluate information related to children's holistic growth and development in context, through demonstrating ability to interpret theory and predict the potential impact on early years practice.

### Unit 11: Early Years Foundation Stage (optional unit)

- Understand the legal status, principles, themes and aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Examine the learning and development and assessment requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Examine the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Apply skills to support children's progress towards early learning goals and to meet
- Safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

### 50 hours work experience

We have a placement co-ordinator who will help you find a placement. Our students have been to a range of placements around the local area. Students have previously completed work experience in the following settings:

- Castle Lower School
- Busy Bees Day Nursery
- Lavenders Day Nursery
- Pilgrims Day Nursery
- Polham School
- Brickhill Lower School

We have accommodated students who live out of the local area by finding placements closer to home.

## Year Two Course Content

### Unit 2: Development of Children's Communication, Literacy and Numeracy Skills

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concepts, activities, processes and theories that support the development of communication, language, literacy and numeracy
- Apply knowledge and understanding of the concepts, key activities, processes and theories that promote development of communication, language, literacy and numeracy
- Analyse and evaluate information about children and early years, demonstrating the ability to interpret the potential impact and influence of activities and approaches on communication, language, literacy and numeracy development.

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- Be able to recommend activities and approaches to support development of communication, language, literacy and numeracy in context with appropriate justification, using theory to support arguments

## Unit 3: Play and Learning

- Examine types of play and learning activities and the benefits for children's learning and development
- Investigate theoretical perspectives to learning and development, curriculum approaches to play and their influence on current early years practice
- Demonstrate skills required by early years professionals to support children's purposeful play and learning opportunities.

## Course support and enrichment

- Forest School trip
- Guest speakers from Universities and professionals in the workforce
- One-to-ones with tutor
- Written and verbal feedback
- Extra revision for exams
- Placement Co-ordinator.

## What does this course prepare me for?

### Higher Education Courses:

- Primary Education
- Early Years Education
- Education Studies
- Youth and Family Studies
- Child and Adolescent Studies.

### Employment in childcare:

- Nursery nurse
- Play co-ordinator
- Child minder
- Children's support worker
- Children's holiday rep.

### Employment after Higher Education:

- Primary School Teacher
- Nursery Manager
- Social Work
- Early Years Teacher
- Family Support.

## Assessment

- Child development exam
- Coursework throughout both years
- Observations in placement.

Last updated: October 2016