



BTEC

PEARSON LEVEL 3 ALTERNATIVE
ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION (EXTENDED
CERTIFICATE)

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

WHAT IS CHILD DEVELOPMENT?

Learning about child development is vital for any professional working with children, whether that be within the education, health, or social care sectors. It gives you a background of the key theories which will inform all aspects of your understanding of how children develop from birth, up to the age of eight years. You will then be able to use this understanding to inform your work and provide the best for the children. You will learn about the principles of children's development and milestones across each of the five areas of development, how to keep children safe and how Early Childhood settings operate.

WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE THIS COURSE

The Child Development qualification allows students to engage in a broad investigation of the children's care and education sector (0-8 years). The course is designed for post-16 students with an interest in Education and Early Years and aiming to progress to higher education as a route to graduate level employment.

HOW THIS COURSE IS ASSESSED

The following units are assessed through external examination:

Unit 1 Children's Development (25%)

Unit 2 Keeping Children Safe (25%)

The following are assessed internally through controlled assessment.

Unit 3 Play and Learning (25%)

Unit 4 Research and Reflective Practice in an Early Childhood Setting (25%)

WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO WITH THIS COURSE

The qualification is a two-year study programme of learning, helping learners prepare for a range of Child Development degree programmes or apprenticeships.

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant degree courses:

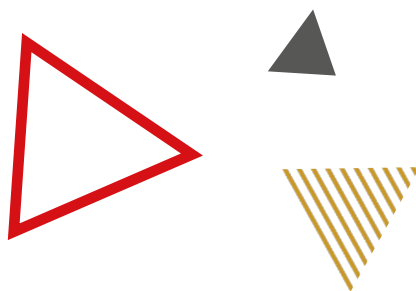
- Nursing – Child – BSc (Hons)
- Teacher Training – Childhood and Early Years Studies BA (Hons)
- Social Work – BA (Hons) Social Work
- Psychology – Psychology BSc (Hons).

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website.

FURTHER READING

L3 AAQ BTEC National 2025 Early Childhood Development Ext Cert Student Book



WHAT THE COURSE COVERS

Mandatory units, learners complete all units:

YEAR 1

Unit 1 Children's development – Children's developmental progress from birth up to eight years, including the theories, principles and factors relating to development, and the potential impact of a range of factors on a child's progress through the developmental milestones.

Unit 2 Keeping Children Safe – Health and safety and safeguarding responsibilities of an individual working in an early years setting; emergency best practices and when to address concerns about a child's welfare.

YEAR 2

Unit 3 Play and Learning – The concept of play, the influence of theories and approaches to play, and the benefits of play and learning activities for children.

Unit 4 Research and Reflective Practice – The influence of research findings on policy and provision for children and how this influences the behaviours and expectations of an individual working in an early years setting

Students can choose to study Child Development as a single (1 A-level equivalent) award.



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