

POST-16 COURSE OVERVIEW

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

QUALIFICATION	AWARDING BODY	COURSE LENGTH
Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Early Childhood Development (Extended Certificate)	Pearson	2 years

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course explores children's development, play, learning and safety from birth up to eight years. Across the two-year programme, students develop applied knowledge of how children grow and learn, how adults support development, professional responsibilities in early-years settings, and how research and reflective practice can improve outcomes. It suits students interested in education, early years, health, social care and related higher-education or professional pathways.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

KEY CONTENT

- **Unit 1: Children's Development** - principles and patterns of physical, cognitive, language, emotional and social development; milestones, theories and factors affecting development.
- **Unit 3: Play and Learning** - types and stages of play, theoretical perspectives, curriculum approaches, the role of the adult and planning experiences that support learning.
- **Unit 2: Keeping Children Safe** - legal responsibilities, health and safety, risk assessment, infection control, safeguarding, children's rights, online safety and responding to concerns.
- **Unit 4: Research and Reflective Practice in an Early Childhood Setting** - research information and data, how research informs policy and practice, improving outcomes, and theories and approaches to reflective practice.

ASSESSMENT

- Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed by Pearson through 80-mark examinations lasting 1 hour 45 minutes.
- Units 3 and 4 are internally assessed through Pearson Set Assignment Briefs (PSABs), marked by the centre and subject to Pearson standards verification.
- Unit 4 includes synoptic application of underpinning knowledge. A work placement is strongly recommended, but is not mandatory for achievement.

WHERE COULD THIS COURSE TAKE ME?

This qualification supports progression to university, apprenticeships and careers in education, early years, health and social care. Relevant pathways include Childhood and Early Years Studies, teacher training, Child or Adult Nursing, Social Work and Psychology. Complementary Post-16 subjects include Sociology, Psychology, Biology and English.

KEY CONTACT

COURSE LEAD

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