



BTEC Level 3 AAQ EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: SUMMER TRANSITION BOOKLET



What is Early Childhood Development?

Early childhood development (ECD) refers to the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social growth that occurs in children from birth to around 8 years old. This period is considered one of the most critical phases in a person's life because the brain develops rapidly, laying the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour, and health.

If you study this course in Early Childhood Development (ECD), you will study how children grow and learn during their formative years. The course will introduce you to various theories of child development, including the work of influential thinkers such as Piaget, Vygotsky, Erikson, and Montessori. You'll learn about the different aspects of development—cognitive, language, physical, emotional, and social—and how to observe and assess these milestones in young children.

A major focus of the course is the importance of learning through play. You'll explore how play supports development in multiple areas and how to create meaningful play-based learning experiences. You will also learn how to design and plan age-appropriate curricula and activities that support early learning in preschool and early primary settings.

You'll also learn the ways children in early childhood are kept safe by professionals. Early years professionals keep children safe by creating a secure and hazard-free environment while supervising them closely to prevent accidents. They follow safeguarding policies to identify and report any signs of abuse or neglect, promote healthy routines like good hygiene and nutrition, and encourage safe play. By building trusting relationships, they help children feel secure and able to share concerns. Additionally, these professionals stay trained and aware of safety regulations to respond appropriately, ensuring children's physical and emotional well-being is protected.



BTEC National Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) in Early Childhood Development:

If you choose to study BTEC National AAQ in Early Childhood Development, you will be studying a new applied qualification which is worth the same amount of UCAS points as a traditional A level.

Unit Name		Key content	Assessment
1	Children's Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principles of development and how they are applied • Physical development from birth to 8 years • Cognitive development from birth to 8 years • Language development from birth to 8 years • Emotional development from birth to 8 years • Social development from birth to 8 years 	<p>You will be assessed by an EXAM, lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. It is worth 80 marks.</p> <p>You will sit this exam in Y12.</p>
2	Keeping Children Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate legal responsibilities and approaches to health and safety in early years settings • Recognise hazards and risks to children • The Early Year Framework and Safeguarding • Responding to child abuse 	<p>You will be assessed by an EXAM, lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. It is worth 80 marks.</p> <p>You will sit this exam in Y13.</p>
3	Play and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine types of play and learning activities and how they promote children's learning and development • Investigate theoretical perspectives to learning and development in early childhood • Understand curriculum, approaches to play and their impact on practice in early childhood environments 	<p>You will be assessed by a series of COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS in Y12.</p> <p>These will be assessed in school, by your tutor and moderated externally.</p>
4	Research and Reflective Practice in an Early Childhood Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand types of information and data related to research into provision and practice in children's care and education (0-8 years) • Understand the purpose and impact of research in the children's care and education sector (0-8 years) • Know the purpose of reflective practice for those working in the children's care and education sector (0-8 years) • Understand and apply theories and approaches for reflective practice 	<p>You will be assessed by a series of COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS.</p> <p>These will be assessed in school, by your tutor and moderated externally.</p>

For more information and sample exam papers, please see the BTEC website:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/early-childhood-development-aaq.html>

