

LEVEL 3 BTEC

AAQ Extended Certificate Early Childhood Development



INTRODUCTION TO BTECs

BTECs embody a student-centred approach to the curriculum, with a flexible, unit-based structure and knowledge applied through a balanced combination of assignments and examinations. They enable the holistic development of the practical, interpersonal and thinking skills required to succeed in higher education and employment.

BTEC Nationals require commitment and hard work. Students will need to be organised in order to prepare for and complete a combination of exams and assignments across two years of study. In addition, a week of work placement in an early years setting must be completed which aims to consolidate knowledge gained throughout year one and to assist in the preparation for year two content.

Why choose to study Early Childhood Development?

This course is designed to be taken alongside other A levels as part of a study programme and is intended for students that wish to progress into higher education. It provides students with a broad insight into the children's care and education sector (0-8 years).

OUR APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

The department has excellent resources that will enable students to experience a wide range of learning opportunities.

- There is strong emphasis on practical work – the students will develop their understanding of the importance of play in children's learning and development whilst keeping them safe
- Skills can be learnt and practiced in the purposely-designed classroom prior to consolidating them with children in placement
- We use a range of quality learning materials and resources that reflect those used in settings as well as online support and learning materials available to all students

- All staff have a qualification and background in an early years' area so have a wealth of experience to share through their teaching
- Staff have a flexible teaching approach but set high standards for students ensuring they understand the need to complete homework designed to prepare for or consolidate their learning and respect deadlines

TOPICS & ASSESSMENT

This is an exciting subject that is suitable for any student who is interested in working with children and in developing their knowledge in:

- Children's development
- Safety and safeguarding children
- Play and learning
- Research and reflective practice



The following compulsory elements are included:

- core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area.
- an industry placement with an appropriate early years employer

Assessment is comprised of:

Year 1: a 1hr 45min exam on children's development

an assignment on play and learning

Year 2: a 1hr 45min exam on keeping children safe

an assignment on research and reflective practice

ENTRY AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS

What are the entry requirements for Early Childhood Development?

- Minimum 5 GCSE's at grade 4 including English Language and Maths (Science will also be required if you wish to pursue a career in teaching)
- It is desirable that students have some experience with children
- All students require a DBS check

A week of work placement is a compulsory part of the course. We aim for students to complete this with minimal impact to their other studies. Placements are organised by our placement officer in order to fulfil course training and assessment requirements.

Complementary Subjects

This course could be combined with a variety of other A levels, for example: Health and Social Care, Food and Nutrition, Psychology and Sociology.

Progression

The AAQ in Early Childhood Development allows students to gain appropriate UCAS points, alongside their other A levels, to progress into higher education. Students could pursue studies in:

Early Years Studies – Working with Children and Families BA (Hons)

Teacher Training – Primary Education (QTS)

Nursing – Child Nursing BSc (Hons)

Social Work – BA (Hons) Social Work

Psychology – Psychology BSc (Hons)



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