

Subject: Early Childhood Development

Level: AAQ Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson



Course Outline

The AAQ Pearson BTEC National Extended Certificate in Early Childhood Development aims to provide you with applied knowledge and skills in Education and Early Years and allows you to engage in a broad investigation of the children's care and education sector (0-8 years)

The qualification is equivalent in size to one A Level, and you will take this qualification alongside other A Levels and/or AAQs.

What will I learn on this course?

Students will develop the following knowledge and skills:

- Knowledge and understanding of children's development, importance of play and learning in development, and health and safeguarding practices
- Knowledge and understanding of how research findings influence legislation, policy and provisions for children
- Skills to support the safeguarding and maintenance of children's safety, including in emergencies
- Skills to support children's play and learning experiences, including numeracy and literacy
- Critical thinking, secondary research and reflective practice skills. Understanding children's development and safeguarding gives students a good foundation for transition to degrees such as nursing, teaching, and social work.

Through the work placement in this qualification, students develop professional practice and interpersonal skills as well as resilience, which will help them to better cope with the demands of the placement in many of these degree courses. In addition, transferable skills such as critical thinking and research are important for academic success.

How Will I be Assessed?

This qualification is assessed using external assessments (exams) and internal assessments (coursework). As the assessment is split 50/50 between exams and coursework, and you are permitted to resit the exams, this qualification is ideal for those that find exams challenging

Who would be a successful student of Early Childhood Development

This qualification is ideal for anyone interested in learning about the development, care and education of children from birth to eight years. It will be of particular interest if you are considering a future career working with children or want to explore the wider early years sector. Alongside classroom learning, you may also attend a work placement in an early years setting to support your studies. While this is not mandatory, it can provide valuable experience and help you apply your knowledge in a real world context.

Other subject areas that fit well with Early Childhood Development include:

- Health & Social Care
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Biology
- English

Career Opportunities

Students that want to progress onto other related study, such as higher education courses in mental health and wellbeing, mental health nursing, public health and community studies, counselling, creative therapeutic practice, and environmental health course.

Course Structure

There are four mandatory units which are:

- Unit 1: Children's Development
- Unit 2: Keeping Children Safe
- Unit 3: Play and Learning
- Unit 4: Research and Reflective Practice in an Early Childhood Setting