

Option – BTEC Child Development

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Why choose Child Development?

This qualification is for students who are interested in working with children in the future. The course covers some of the fundamental aspects of child development, including how children grow, develop and learn, factors that can affect development, the importance of play and how it supports learning and the reasons why children may need extra support. The Child Development course will give you a broad introduction to a sector that includes a wide range of careers from education to social care and social work to many different branches of children's health care. The breadth of this course allows you to identify your strengths and interests to help inform your next steps in education and training. Students who complete this course can continue their studies at Level 3 and eventually progress to University – if they choose to do so.

The course is structured as follows:

Component 1: Children's growth and development.

30% of overall BTEC

Assessed through a supervised coursework task.

You will learn about how children grow, develop and learn new skills. You will develop your knowledge of the typical patterns of development for children of different ages. These are sometimes referred to as 'milestones'. You will find out about the roles of different professionals, including health professionals and early years practitioners and you will learn how they assess whether a child is meeting the expected patterns of development and also how they can support children who are not doing so. You will develop lots of transferrable skills, including skills in research and written communication, which will help you if you decide to carry on with your studies at sixth form and University.

Component 2: Learning through play.

30% of overall BTEC

Assessed through a supervised coursework task.

You will develop an understanding of how play activities can influence children's learning between birth and the age of five. You will consider all of the different types of play in which children engage and how these activities can support children's learning and progress. You will look at play opportunities that you can design to support children's learning and development in community settings and in the home. You will develop an understanding of the theory and practices to plan activities that encourage children to learn and develop. This is a skill which is very highly regarded within the Early Years and Foundation Stages of education and is essential for anyone wanting to work as an Early Years Teacher, Nursery practitioner or Play Therapist.

Component 3: Supporting children to play, learn and develop

40% of overall BTEC

Assessed through external examination.

Every child is special and unique and will develop skills and knowledge at different speeds. Some children are affected by individual needs or circumstances which can affect how they learn and develop. This can include physical needs such as illness, disability or sensory impairment and also cognitive and intellectual needs such as learning disabilities and poor concentration levels. Additionally, some children may have English as an additional language or may have social and emotional needs which are different to those of the majority of children. You will investigate the role of the adult in making sure that all children are safe when engaging in play activities. You will also investigate how activities can be adapted to ensure that all children can join in with play to promote their learning and development.

Where can it lead?

*Having completed a qualification in Child Development,
you could choose a career path into ...*

- Teaching
- Early years teaching
- Nursery worker
- Paediatric nursing
- Play Therapy
- Residential Care Work
- Community Care Work
- Social Work
- SEND Specialist
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Child Psychology
- Art Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Health Visitor
- Midwife

... and many, many more

