



The Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development gives an introduction to study of the sector, and is equivalent in size to one A Level. It supports access to a range of higher education courses, possibly but not exclusively in the early years sector, if taken alongside further Level 3 qualifications. No prior study of the sector is needed. The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with higher education to ensure it supports progression to higher education. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved in order to confirm that the content is appropriate for those interested in working in the sector. Learners will complete 50 hours' work experience

Entry requirements

The entry requirements for this course are 5 GCSEs at grades 4-9 (or BTEC equivalents).

Course Content

During the two year course students will study **three** compulsory units :

- ◆ children's development
- ◆ communication and numeracy
- ◆ play and learning

They will also study **one** optional unit from the following list:

- ◆ *physical development, care and health needs*
- ◆ *keeping children safe*
- ◆ *The Early Years Foundation Stage*

Assessment

Assessment will be through internally marked assignments and external examinations. The weightings for assessment are 66% external, 34% internal.

Students can achieve Pass, Merit or Distinction grading on each unit. The final grade is an aggregate of all the unit grades to give an overall grade of Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

Approach to Teaching and Learning

- ◆ Individual research and study
- ◆ Group work
- ◆ Class discussion
- ◆ Case studies
- ◆ Individual Reviews with your tutor
- ◆ Visits to employers in the early years sector. Students are encouraged to take up volunteer posts
- ◆ Talks from visiting professionals
- ◆ Web – based research



Future Prospects

Children's Play, Learning and Development is generally taken alongside other qualifications as part of a two-year programme of learning. The qualification carries UCAS points and can lead to a variety of courses such as: a BSc (Hons) in Paediatric Nursing, a BA (Hons) in Childhood Studies, a BA (Hons) in Primary Education. This qualification is primarily designed to support progression to employment via higher education; however this qualification will also be relevant for those who choose to progress directly to employment, or apprenticeships.