

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Children's Play, Learning & Development

The BTEC L3 National Extended Diploma in Children's Play Learning and Development is an exciting two-year course that is aimed at young people who are planning a career working with children from birth to 7 years 11 months. The course contains the study of theoretical and professional perspectives with outstanding placement opportunities for all students in schools and nurseries. This course is unique, as it will give the learners the required UCAS points for progression onto university and the necessary skills and professional licenses to work in the early year's profession upon successful completion of the course.

Why choose this course?

If you are looking to work with children and their families and enjoy working in a challenging but highly rewarding environment, then this course is for you. Your role will include providing a safe, secure, and stimulating environment that enables children to reach their full potential. You will plan for a curriculum that is aimed at ensuring high quality education for children aged from birth up to seven years and eleven months.

What will I learn?

Professional Skills

Learners will spend two days per week in either a nursery or school setting, learning how to use the knowledge learnt at college into practice. The skills that you will be developing include:

- How to observe and assess the developmental needs of children
- Planning to create exciting and engaging learning experiences
- How to develop children's speech and language
- Working with other professionals to support children with additional needs
- How to safeguard children from harm
- Working with families in the best interests of the child
- Providing for the physical care needs of children

Theoretical Learning

In order to develop into an outstanding children's professional, you will be studying units that will give you a firm theoretical understanding of children's development, professional skills, and responsibilities. In college, you will undertake academic units which include:

Year 1

- Children's Development (Exam)
- Development of Children's Communication, Language and Literacy (Controlled Assessment)
- Play and Learning
- Keeping Children Safe
- Children's Physical Development, Care and Health Needs
- Working with Parents and Others in Early Years
- The Early Years Foundation Stage

Year 2

- Research in Early Years Practice (Controlled Assessment)
- Observation, Assessment and Planning
- Children's Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Reflective Practice
- Children's Development Outdoors

- Healthy Eating in Early Years
- Working with Children who have Additional Needs
- Digital Technologies in Early Years Practice

Assessment Arrangements

The course will involve 750 hours of assessed work placement, a placement portfolio, exams, written work, and practical tasks such as role-plays. The course is continually assessed, which means that you will usually be working on a range of assignments at the same time. This requires careful personal and time management, skills that are vital to a successful career in education.

Your BTEC is made up of eleven mandatory units and a range of additional units, totalling 1080 guided learning hours across the two years of your course.

In year one you will undertake two external assessments, one exam based, and one controlled assessment in addition to your placement tasks and course work. The set tasks are marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions, both have a part A where all learners will be provided with a case study or a research article and will have allocated time to carry out research on the topic and make notes. Part B then consists of a supervised assessment period where learners need to answer questions base on part A and can use research and notes they prepared during the part A time slot.

You will have two opportunities to take each external assessment and must achieve at least a pass in each to successfully achieve the full National Extended Diploma. In Year 2, there is an additional external assessment which must also be passed.

The remaining units are all internally assessed assignment units that are all 60 guided learning hours and are assessed in various way such as:

- Research reports
- Written essays and reports
- Role plays
- Work placement and portfolio
- Presentations
- Discussion

In every assignment or external assessment, either exam, synoptic or coursework based, students must provide evidence to meet the required assessment criteria. The assessment criteria will be varied, allowing the students to achieve each unit at a range of levels, pass, merit or distinction. Each individual unit grade will then attract points which will collectively determine a final grade at the end of the two years.

An integral element of this course is the work placements that students must complete, and they will be out of college and in placement two days per week. Students' musts complete 750 of work placement hours over the two years with at least 100 hours being completed in the following age groups:

- From birth to one year 11 months
- From two years to four years 11 months
- Five years to seven years 11 months

A Professional Evidence Portfolio will record students' hours, evidence the work skills they are able to demonstrate and keep daily diaries as well as monthly reflection of their practice. This two-year course comes with Early Years Educator status which gives students a licence to practice and go into working in early years upon the completion of the course.

Information & Support

For further information or if you have any questions about the course, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the following details.

Gemma Williams - Course lead, gemmawilliams@callywith.ac.uk, Tel: 01208 224204

or:

Callywith College Enquiries Team, enquiry@callywith.ac.uk, 01208 224000

Where will it take me?

On successful completion of the course students can progress straight into employment in a nursery or other early years settings, at Level 3, with the Early Years Educator status.

In addition, students can continue their studies at university, training to be a Primary or Early Years teacher or undertake study in other related areas. E.g., children's social work or play therapy. Your college tutor will support you throughout the UCAS application process and beyond.

What will I need?

A clear interest in working with children is highly desirable and prior experience will support your application.

Students will be required to have the following GCSEs to be accepted onto the course.

GCSE Maths- Grade 4 or C
GCSE English- Grade 4 or C
GCSE Science- Grade 4 or C
+ 1 other GCSE at Grade 4 or C

Additional Information

Awarding body: Edexcel