

BTEC National Diploma In Children's Care, Learning & Development

09/10

Introduction

Would you like to work with babies &/or children in an early years health &/or educational setting? Would you rather complete coursework than sit exams? Would you like to get out there into the real world of work to gain the necessary knowledge & skills to be an effective early years practitioner whilst studying towards your qualification in college?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then this course could be just what you need!

This course aims to:

- Introduce you to a wide range of interesting and enriching topic areas relevant to early years practice
- Support you in gaining the appropriate knowledge & skills through work experience every week – you will complete 400 hours each year
- Prepare you to progress to an appropriate HE course or into a job straight away after completion. [This course provides you with a licence to practice as a Nursery Nurse without further training.]

General Information

Entry Requirements:

You do not need to have had any previous experience of child development &/or Health & Social Care courses at school, but you will need at least 4 GCSEs at Grade C or above, one of which must be English Language, or a Merit in Intermediate GNVQ Health & Social Care with English Language at grade C or above or a BTEC First in Children's Care, Learning & Development with English Language at grade C or above or a related vocational area.

Structure of the Course:

You will complete 18 units over two years. The BTEC National Diploma is equivalent to 3 'A' levels.

You will undertake 800 hrs of work placement over the two years in all 4 of the following age ranges: 0-1, 1-3, 3-5 and 5-8 yrs. Learners will undertake the assessed work placement experiences through a variety of relevant settings, for example: a hospital, private nursery, primary school, with a childminder, voluntary or statutory pre-school and special needs provision.

There are many topic areas to be studied; here is a taster of the topics you will study:

- Reflecting on and Developing Practice for children aged 0-8 yrs– this unit will guide you on your work experience over two days each week. You will note ALL your experiences through your Professional Practice Development Log Book as you go along. In the classroom your teacher will work through practice issues & support you in your completion of this vital unit. This unit is completed continually over the two years.
- Safeguarding Children – what would you do if you suspected a child was being abused? What laws protect our children in Britain? How do early years practitioners work with other agencies to ensure our children are safe?
- Promoting Children's Development – the aim of this unit is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop detailed knowledge and understanding of growth & development in children. This unit is completed continually over the two years.
- Complementary therapies – which complementary therapies are used on children? Why do children need complementary therapies? What are the contra-indications of certain complementary practices on children?
- Diet & Nutrition for Children – the importance of the food we eat, and the effects of inappropriate diets, have become highlighted in recent years. There has been a growing problem of childhood obesity. It is important for learners to have a good understanding of the principles of nutrition and diet in order for them to maintain or improve their own diet and health, as well as that of the babies and children for whom they care.
- Equality Diversity & Rights – it is every humans right to be treated with equality and fairness, children are no exception to this rule. Learn about how children have rights, how this has changed over time, what laws we have today to be a voice for our children.
- Physical Activities for Children – the aim of this unit is to focus on physical activities for children, and how these can aid healthy development. Learners will explore the anatomy and physiology of the human body, they will consider the role of physical activities in the healthy development of children. Learners will plan activities and evaluate these.

All of these units are assessed by coursework, internally marked by your teachers and externally moderated by the examining body [EDEXCEL].

Future Opportunities

This qualification is awarded when the learner has completed all 18 units and completed all 800 hours on work placement experience and gained at least a Pass over the two years enrolled at Bolton Sixth Form College. The overall grade [Pass, Merit or Distinction] will provide UCAS points in order for the learner to progress onto their desired course at University.

Most students go onto University and complete further early years / childhood type professional degrees i.e. Primary School Teacher, Children's Nurse, Social Worker, Child Psychologist. This is not an exhaustive list.

Some students take their qualification and immediately gain employment as a Nursery Nurse rather than going to University.

Additional Points To Note

The BTEC National Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development is an intense advanced course. It demands a great deal of the learners time outside of the classroom, commitment and maturity.

Students will be required to complete a CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) check in line with national guidelines before they can commence work experience or a work placement.