

Statement of Purpose

600/6814/0 – Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Children’s Play, Learning and Development

Who is the qualification for?

This qualification is a Technical Award equivalent in size to one GCSE. It is designed for pre-16 students working at level 2 who want to include a study of children’s development in their broader Key Stage 4 curriculum. It provides an introduction to some of the key themes within the early years sector, enabling students to develop and apply their knowledge while also developing a range of relevant practical, communication and technical skills.

The content enables students to apply their knowledge in new and practical industry-related contexts.

What will the student study as part of this qualification?

This qualification is based on recent thinking and research in the sector and provides an engaging and relevant introduction to the world of early years. It incorporates aspects of child development from birth to age 8, exploring play as a route of children’s learning, forming the basis of early years frameworks, such as the Early Years Foundation Stage (England), and includes a study of inclusive practice and empowering children.

This qualification consists of three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: ‘Patterns of Child Development’ is externally assessed through a written exam paper featuring mini case studies. Students will learn about children’s growth and development: physical, cognitive, communication and language, emotional and social and how these areas are linked.
- Unit 2: ‘Promoting Children’s Development through Play’ is internally assessed through assignments. Students will explore how play promotes children’s development in early years settings, gaining an understanding of how play is structured.
- Unit 3: ‘The Principles of Early Years Practice’ is internally assessed through assignments. Students will explore the key principles that are reflected in best practice in early years.

What knowledge and skills will the student develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

The assignment-based approach to assessment will support the development of communication skills such as extended writing and drafting, critical skills of analysis, team working, planning, working from a prescribed brief, working to deadlines, presenting information effectively, accurately completing tasks and processes and study skills such as research and time management. All these will support study at level 3 in any course chosen.

By developing the sector knowledge and skills outlined above, students will be well prepared for progression to a level 3 academic, applied general or technical level qualification in early years or a related area such as psychology. Students might also consider an apprenticeship. The section below suggests some subjects which will complement this course for those who are considering this progression route.

Which subjects will complement this course?

This qualification is designed to be taken as part of a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4. It will go particularly well alongside GCSEs in EBacc subjects (including biology), GCSEs in creative subjects (such as drama, music and art) and PE and/or other Technical Awards (e.g. BTEC Health and Social Care, BTEC Sport) to provide both curriculum breadth and the skills needed to make informed choices about study post-16.

This qualification is part of a larger suite of BTEC Children's Play, Learning and Development qualifications

Pearson BTEC Level 1/ Level 2 First Award in Children's Play, Learning and Development provides a broad introduction to the sector and enables students to acquire, develop and apply the skills and knowledge required for further academic and/or vocational study.

Pearson also offers a BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development. This is equivalent in size to two GCSEs. It incorporates the three units in the Award and, through the study of additional units, provides a programme for students who wish to develop broader knowledge and understanding of the sector at this level.

The Award and Certificate both support progression *post-16* to qualifications at level 2 and 3 for students who wish to work in early year settings in a supervised capacity or as an "Early Year Educator".