



Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 600/6814/0	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Children's Play, Learning and Development (120 GLH)

The early years sector

The early years sector in England is made up of over 80,000 settings, with 1.3 million childcare places for children under five. These settings range from childminders and nannies to nurseries, crèches and preschools. The early years sector focuses specifically on the learning, development and care of children from birth to five years.

The early years sector offers a range of progression through further study – for example, early years educator and teaching roles, management, special needs, social work and play work.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is a Technical Award equivalent in size to one GCSE. It is ideal for you if you are a pre-16 student working at level 1/level 2 and want to include a study of children's development in your broader Key Stage 4 curriculum. It provides an introduction to some of the key themes within the early years sector, enabling you to develop and apply your knowledge, while also developing a range of relevant practical, communication and technical skills. The content enables you to apply your knowledge in new and practical sector-related contexts.

What will I 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 eight, exploring play as a route of children's learning. It forms the basis of early years frameworks, such as the Early Years Foundation Stage (England), and includes a study of inclusive practice and ways of empowering children.

This qualification consists of three mandatory units, covering the following areas:

- patterns of child development, including children's growth and various aspects of development (physical, cognitive, communication and language, emotional and social) and how these areas are linked

- promoting children’s development through play, in which you explore how play promotes children’s development in early years settings, and gain an understanding of how play is structured
- the key principles for achieving best practice in early years settings, which covers the key principles that are reflected in best practice in early years.

How will I be assessed?

Your knowledge of the patterns of child development is assessed through a written paper, which is set and marked by Pearson and features mini case studies. The other areas are assessed through assignments, which are set and marked by your school.

Where will this take me?

When you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of the early years sector, and the roles and responsibilities of the people involved in the sector. You will have acquired knowledge and developed useful skills, which are not generally covered in GCSE courses. These skills include: 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, and accurately completing tasks; and study skills, such as research and time management. This will give you a better idea of whether the early years sector is for you and, if so, which part of it you might want to study further.

After you have finished the course, you may want to go on to further study such as A levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. Alternatively, you might want to find work in the early years sector as an apprentice or a trainee. The best option for you will depend on the grades you achieve in this qualification and in other qualifications you have taken, what you enjoy doing and any advice you can access about the further learning and training opportunities available in your area.

What other subjects go well with children’s play, learning and development?

This course builds on and uses the knowledge and skills you learn in your GCSEs. It can be complementary learning for GCSEs in EBacc subjects (including Biology), GCSEs in creative subjects (such as drama, music and art), GCSE Physical Education and/or other Technical Awards, for example, BTEC Health and Social Care or BTEC Sport, since you can broaden your skills and experience in these areas.