

Early Childhood Studies

Applied senior subject

Early Childhood Studies focuses on learning about children aged from birth to five years.

Students explore play-based learning activities from two perspectives: they use theories about early childhood learning and devise play-based learning activities responsive to children's needs.

Students examine the interrelatedness of core concepts and ideas of the fundamentals and practices of early childhood learning. They plan, justify and evaluate play-based learning activities responsive to the needs of children as well as evaluating contexts in early childhood learning. This enables students to develop understanding of the multifaceted, diverse and significant nature of early childhood learning.

Pathways

A course of study in Early Childhood Studies can establish a basis for further education and employment in health, community services and education. Work opportunities exist as early childhood educators, teacher's aides or assistants in a range of early childhood contexts.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students should:

- apply concepts and ideas of the fundamentals and practices of early childhood learning
 - use language conventions and features to communicate ideas and information for specific purposes
 - plan and justify play-based learning activities responsive to children's needs
 - evaluate play-based learning activities in response to children's needs
 - evaluate contexts in early childhood learning.
- describe concepts and ideas related to fundamentals of early childhood
 - explain concepts and ideas of practices of early childhood learning.
 - analyse concepts and ideas of the fundamentals and practices of early childhood learning

Structure

The Early Childhood Studies course is designed around core topics embedded in at least four elective topics.

Core topics	Elective topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of early childhood • Practices in early childhood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play and creativity • Literacy and numeracy skills • Being in a safe place • Health and physical wellbeing • Indoor and outdoor learning environments

Assessment

For Early Childhood Studies, assessment from Units 3 and 4 is used to determine the student's exit result, and consists of four instruments, including:

- two projects
- two other assessments.

Project	Investigation	Extended response	Examination
A response to a single task, situation and/or scenario.	A response that includes locating and using information beyond students' own knowledge and the data they have been given.	A technique that assesses the interpretation, analysis/examination and/or evaluation of ideas and information in provided stimulus materials.	A response that answers a number of provided questions, scenarios and/or problems.
At least two different components from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written: 500–900 words • spoken: 2½–3½ minutes • multimodal: 3–6 minutes • performance: continuous class time • product: continuous class time. 	Presented in one of the following modes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written: 600–1000 words • spoken: 3–4 minutes • multimodal: 4–7 minutes. 	Presented in one of the following modes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written: 600–1000 words • spoken: 3–4 minutes • multimodal: 4–7 minutes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60–90 minutes • 50–250 words per item