

Early Childhood BA (Hons)

UCAS Code: X320 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2026/2027

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

The early childhood degree builds advanced knowledge about young children. This early childhood course covers child development, interactions, and the effects of local and global inequalities. It prepares you to advocate for young children's needs and rights.

This early childhood degree provides a supportive learning environment. You'll get expert guidance, access to university resources, and teaching from a diverse team with experience in research, practice, and policy. Your learning includes guest speakers and field visits in Liverpool, a city rich in community and culture.

The early childhood course is taught by academics from sociology, education, philosophy, and psychology. They are active researchers who publish widely and attend national and international conferences. Their expertise creates a challenging, research-informed setting.

For single honours students, the early childhood degree has a required placement to apply theory in a professional setting. For combined honours students, the placement is optional.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2026/2027 are £9,535 for full-time undergraduate courses.

On top of tuition fees, you will need approximately £100 to buy key textbooks required for the degree.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls/

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



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Early Childhood BA (Hons)

Curriculum

Year One

Understanding Childhood

You will examine how ideas of childhood have changed over time and across different historical and socio-cultural contexts, using specific case studies. The module also traces the development of the field through the work of pioneers such as Froebel, Montessori, and the McMillan Sisters. In addition, you will begin to explore the emergence of children's rights and their significance in everyday life.

Child Development and Play

You will focus on contemporary understandings of child development and learning. You will study the value of play-based pedagogies and consider how digital technologies and storytelling shape children's moral, social, emotional, physical, and language development. Learning is deepened through varied assessments, including the opportunity to write your own children's story.

Year Two

Explorations in Early Childhood

Learning Theories

You will explore key learning theories, with a particular emphasis on socio-cultural approaches and the child's learning environment. The module examines the biological, socio-emotional and socio-cognitive foundations of learning and development in infancy and early childhood.

Child Health and Well-being

This module investigates how culture, environment and lived experience shape health and well-being. You will study issues such as identity formation, self-awareness, mental health and stress, friendships and family

circumstances, gaining deeper insight into factors that influence children's lives.

International Perspectives

You will be encouraged to make international comparisons in early childhood education and care, studying influential approaches such as Reggio Emilia, Te Whariki, High Scope and Forest School.

Year Three

Advanced Studies in Early Childhood

Social Policy

You will develop advanced analytical skills to explore the global, economic and political development of constructs of childhood.

Multi Agency Working

This module examines the role of a multi-agency teams in the context of high-profile cases, highlighting both the challenges and constraints of interprofessional practice.

Dissertation

You will design and carry out a study, then present your findings in a formal dissertation, demonstrating the depth of expertise gained throughout your early childhood degree.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on the early childhood degree combines lectures for all students with seminars and small group sessions. You will also engage in workshops, guided reading, distance learning, and activities on the University's Virtual Learning Environment, with the opportunity to meet your tutor one-to-one each week.

For students on the single honours early childhood course, the first year includes around 12 teaching hours per week, reducing to around 10 hours in the second and third years. For those studying Early Childhood as a combined honours degree, there are approximately 6 teaching hours in the first year, reducing to 5 hours in later years.

Alongside formal teaching, you are expected to dedicate additional time to independent study and group work in preparation for assessments.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Assessment methods include essays, exams, posters, and reflective journals. Feedback on assessments will be given to you online and you will also have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with your tutor. Longer pieces of writing are supported by interim constructive written and oral feedback.



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