Why study Early Childhood Studies?
Subject Area Syllabus — Subject guide

What is Early Childhood Studies all about?

Early Childhood Studies focuses on learning about children aged from birth to five years. The early years significantly influence an individual’s accomplishments in family, school, and community life. Through knowing and understanding how children grow, develop and learn, you will be able to interact effectively with children and positively influence their development into confident, independent and caring adults.

What will you learn?

In Early Childhood Studies, you will learn concepts and ideas through the core topics *Fundamentals of early childhood* (growth and development, relationships and identity, connectedness, wellbeing, policies and pathways) and *Practices in early childhood* (play-based learning, responsiveness, active learning environments and observations). The fundamentals underpin the practices in early childhood learning.

These core topics are embedded into at least four of the following electives:

- play and creativity
- literacy and numeracy skills
- being in a safe place
- health and physical wellbeing
- indoor and outdoor learning environments.

Studying through electives provides opportunities to build on the core concepts and ideas as you explore early childhood learning.

How will you learn?

You will engage in activity-based tasks that allow you to understand how children grow, develop and learn. You will have opportunities to observe and interact with children, and to implement two play-based learning activities in each year of a course of study.

Your interactions with children may occur through excursions and visits to quality early childhood settings, in locations such as childcare centres, playgrounds, playgroups, kindergartens, and community welfare organisations. Viewing multimedia, and inviting local families/carers with children, and early childhood education and care professionals to visit the school will also be an important facet of your learning.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment in Early Childhood Studies allows you to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, analysing and applying, and planning, justifying and evaluating early childhood learning in a range of contexts and through play-based learning activities. You will have a chance to present information to audiences through writing and speaking, or by combining modes for a presentation.
In Early Childhood Studies, assessment instruments and responses may include:

- projects — involving play-based learning activities responsive to children’s needs; your response will include at least two assessable components of either a product or a written, spoken or multimodal performance
- investigations — researching a specific question following an inquiry approach; your response will be in a specified format, such as an observation journal, speech or presentation
- extended response to stimulus — responding to a specific question, using provided stimulus, such as play-equipment or observations of children; your response will be in a specified format, such as a brochure, podcast or presentation
- short response examinations.

In Year 12, you will complete four to six assessment responses. Two of these will be projects from different electives, one of which will be implemented with children aged from birth to 5 years.

**How can parents/carers help?**

Your parents/carers may help you by:

- discussing different views about Early Childhood Studies with you
- encouraging and helping you find suitable websites, documentaries, journals and other resources
- encouraging you to take part in school-based activities, including field trips, and extracurricular activities, e.g. implementing a play-based learning activity for children
- offering their services as guest speakers if they are involved in this area of study or related industry
- encouraging safe and ethical behaviour
- contacting your school to establish communication with your teachers to help understand the work undertaken at senior level, and to become familiar with assessment requirements.

**Where can Early Childhood Studies take you?**

This subject contributes four credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) if you receive a Sound Achievement or higher. If you would like to learn more about this certificate, please visit the QCE page on the QCAA website, [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/589.html](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/589.html).

A course of study in Early Childhood Studies can establish a basis for further education and employment in health, community services and education. Depending on qualifications, opportunities exist as early childhood educators or teacher’s aides or assistants in early childhood settings, childcare facilities, kindergartens and early learning centres.

**More information**

This subject guide relates to courses developed from the *Early Childhood Studies Subject Area Syllabus 2014*. If you would like more information, please:

- visit the subject page on the QCAA website, [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/30493.html](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/30493.html)
- email senior.syllabuses@qcaa.qld.edu.au.