Early Years Education

Working with early years children

You must have a passion for working with children and be very flexible in your approach. The rewards come from seeing children progress and develop. You also need to have good interpersonal and people skills because you will be dealing with parents. If you're not self-motivated and always need someone to tell you what to do, you are not likely to succeed.

Applications are especially welcome from male students; and students from Polish, Latvian, Rumanian and other and Eastern European communities who are under-represented in professional early years education.

Why study with us?

- We have a good level of achievement and an excellent relationship with local early years businesses, which enables you to gain valuable experience in real work situations.
- We aim to give you independent learning skills to help you in your career.
- You will learn how to build relationships and trust with parents, while also learning how to set professional lines and barriers.
- The college is well equipped with training DVDs which are used to observe real children in nurseries, practise making observations and to discuss findings.
- You will visit the local RAF Cosford air force base, go to art galleries and visit parks to help you think about what activities you can do with children and link it back to the course. You will also go to the German Market in Birmingham and help out with the Big Toddle. There are campus visits, childcare conferences and health fairs; and at the end of each year there is a celebration event.
- Learn from experienced Tutors and external speakers who will pass on their knowledge and skills to you.

Follow in the foot-steps of previous successful students - many of Wolverhampton's Children's Centre Managers and Early Years Workers were City of Wolverhampton College students.

Preparation for Childcare Entry Level Certificate (Awarding body CACHE)

1 year • Wellington Road Campus

Entry requirements
No formal qualifications are required, but basic literacy is needed and you will be required to attend an interview.

This course is ideal if you haven't achieved any qualifications at school and it focuses on topics that you may already be interested in to develop all-round skills. Maths, work skills, fundraising and personal and social development are covered as well as pregnancy and contraception, caring for children in the home and looking after babies. Career advice is provided by Connexions to provide you with options once you complete the course. There is no work placement involved at this level.

Future options
If you gain merits or distinctions, then you can progress to Level 1. You must also achieve Functional Skills in Maths and English at Entry Level 3.

We have excellent relationships with local and national childcare employers. For example, representatives of Thompson, Thomas Cook and Mark Warner holidays have delivered information sessions to widen students' horizons beyond local employment to working abroad, whilst local and national employment agencies offer a step towards full-time employment.

Caring for Young Children Edexcel Level 1 Diploma

1 year • Wellington Road Campus

Entry requirements
Three GCSEs at grade D to E or Entry Level Caring for Young Children. You must also achieve Functional Skills in Maths and English at Entry Level 3.

If you have an interest in working with children and want to improve your English and Maths then this course is for you. You will study personal and social development with a focus on Early Years, which includes food and nutrition, play activities, human growth and development and care of children. There is a four week placement at the end of the year when you will go into playgroups, which will develop your employability skills such as punctuality and taking personal responsibility.

Future options
Level 2 Early Years Education but you must achieve Functional Skills in Maths and English at Level 1.

Early Years Education Level 2

1 Year • Wellington Road Campus

Entry requirements
Three GCSEs at grade C-E or Level 1 Early Years Education with merits and distinctions plus Functional Skills at Level 1

This course will develop your skills and understanding of working with children up to 16 years old, with personal and social development embedded in the course. Topics you will study include: understanding children's development, keeping children safe, communicating with children and parents and supporting children's play and learning. As part of the course there is a 14-week placement that can take place in nursery schools, private day nurseries, school nurseries, or children's centres. It's more than washing the paintbrushes and serving food – you will be expected to contribute to planning, work alongside staff and be involved professionally in every way.

Future options
Level 3 Early Years Education - you must achieve Functional Skills in Maths and English at Level 2.

Early Years Education Level 3

2 years • Wellington Road Campus

Entry requirements
Level 2 Early Years Education with merits or distinctions; or five GCSEs at grade C or above including English Language; or Functional Skills in Maths and English at Level 2.

The course is ideal if you want to go into teaching, work with children (including working abroad) or go into nursing or social work. There are also options if you want to work in special needs placements or women's refuges. Essential to the course is the work experience element and you are required to complete 14 weeks per year of work experience. Through the course you get an introduction to social work, experiencing situations where the police and social workers get involved. You need to be able to observe and understand child development and be able to link observations to the theory of child psychology. You will also need to do research into how improvements can be made to Early Years settings.

Future options
Courses: higher national or degree qualifications at university.
Employment: teaching, nursing, social work, day nurseries, nanny, day nurseries.

My family encouraged me to study childcare because I have a large family and have always looked after my sisters. I have made a lot of new friends while on the course and am learning things from my different placements. The tutors are also really supportive and help you a lot.

Stephanie Laban enjoyed studying for her childcare GCSE at school, and decided to carry on the subject at college. She is now studying towards her National Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development. Stephanie hopes to move onto university and pursue a career in either social work or midwifery.