

CHILDCARE COURSES @ BCoT

Children's Care, Learning and Development

BTEC Level 2 Diploma – 1 Year

Course Code: PF26

This one year course is designed to introduce you to working in the childcare industry, where high standards of caring and the ability to demonstrate your skills are needed to comply with regulations. The units you will study include; keeping children safe, communication with adults and children and supporting children's learning. You will be expected to undertake work experience as part of this course.

Entry Requirements

4 GCSEs at grade D including English or the Foundation Learning Tier (Distinction) and completion of appropriate literacy and numeracy. You will be required to have a CRB clearance check, a positive CRB will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a place on this course.

Method of assessment

Continuous assessment and specialist projects based on real life scenarios.

Progression

Further study (Children's Care, Learning and Development Level 3 Extended Diploma); apprenticeship or employment working with children.

Children's Care, Learning and Development

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma – 2 Years

Course Code: PF13

This course is designed to give you the combination of work experience and the academic skills to take you either to University, employment or an apprenticeship in the childcare industry. In addition, you will receive a professional nursery nursing qualification enabling you to work in early years

care and education, pre-school settings and private homes. You will undertake at least 800 hours of work outside of academic study working with children.

Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs grade A-C (to include English and preferably Maths and Science). You will be required to have a CRB clearance check. You may still gain a place on this course even if you don't receive full clearance in your CRB check. Learners planning to go on to university will be required to have Science at grade C by the completion of the course.

Method of assessment

Continuous assessment and specialist, practical and theoretical projects.

Progression

Higher Education (a degree or HNC/ HND); employment in education, private homes or playgroup/nurseries. Note that GCSE grades in C or above in English, Maths and Science are required for teacher training.

Early Years

(including Health and Social Care)

Foundation Learning Tier – 1 Year

Course Code: PF05

This qualification is designed to help you understand the skills and knowledge needed to work in the early years/health and social care sector. You will study a variety of units including; creative activities for children, the role of the carer at mealtimes and creative and leisure activities for adults in health and social care. The course involves a lot of practical work helping you to develop your employability and communication skills, teamwork, time management and creativity.

Entry Requirements

GCSEs at grade F-G or no formal

qualifications. You will be required to have immunisation of Hepatitis B and a CRB clearance check. You may still gain a place on this course even if you don't receive full clearance in your CRB check.

Method of assessment

Assignments, projects, short tests and practical tasks.

Progression

Students who complete the course to Distinction level and show an aptitude for working with children may progress to further training in childcare and education.

What Next?

Students on Childcare courses recently went on to:

Further study

- University of Winchester
- Brighton University
- University of Cheltenham
- The University of Liverpool
- Sheffield Hallam University
- The University of Wales
- University of Chichester

Employment as

- Teaching assistants, nursery assistants, room leaders and nanny's (UK and abroad)

Why Study

CHILDCARE

at BCoT

“64% of last years students on the BTEC level 3 Extended Diploma course achieved a triple distinction”.

BCoT – The Perfect Stepping Stone

“A place where I met fantastic people, where my thinking was challenged, my confidence was built and where doors of opportunity were opened to me!” says Anna describing her BCoT experience.

Anna Bodin, a newly qualified teacher, reflects on her time at BCoT as much more than simply her opportunity to gain a qualification. For Anna, college provided a direction for her future after an enjoyable placement gave her a real experience of the world of work.

Anna, a former student at The Hurst Community College, chose to come to BCoT to study a BTEC National Diploma in Early Years particularly enjoying child psychology and her professional practice modules. It was only at her time at BCoT that Anna began to consider University, she said:

“BCoT encouraged me to look into it, I was thrilled at the confidence they had in me”

BCoT absolutely prepared me for University... I felt happy to speak up in lectures and confident to complete my first University assignments”.

After recently graduating from Winchester University with a BA (Hons) Primary Education, Anna has begun working as a full time teacher in a local Basingstoke School. Undoubtedly, BCoT prepared Anna for her next step in her life, equipping her with more than a qualification.

In the future, Anna aims to take on more responsibility in her school and become an outstanding teacher.



Work placements at BCoT

Each of the childcare courses has mandatory placement experience, which are all arranged by the placement co-ordinator Amanda. Amanda places our students in a wide range of settings to ensure each and every one of our students not only meets the demands of the course, but makes industry contacts and positively enhances their CV. See below for some examples of our placements;

- Nursery's
- Pre-schools
- Child-minders
- Infant and primary schools
- Secondary schools
- Special needs settings

The placements are monitored with regular visits and email/ phone contact. While on placements students are expected to produce a diary of attendance and events. BCoT provides a code of conduct for all learners to follow and abide by. As well as this, students ensure that they plan and deliver an activity, for example, a bingo game or a painting activity.

Amanda says “We receive fantastic feedback from our learners after their placements who often regard them as valuable and realistic learning experiences. The feedback from the industry experts is also outstanding who state the learners are well prepared for their work experience and are likely to do very well in a real work setting”.

For more information please contact Allan on 01256 306392 or email nextyear@bcot.ac.uk



Living the Dream in the Austrian Alps

A former BCoT student with a lifelong ambition to work in childcare is now living her dream – in the Austrian Alps!

Sarah-Mae Easton, who studied Level 3 National Diploma in Childcare, Learning and Development, has just begun working the season in the ski resort of St Anton at a nursery.

Sarah said: "It is a fantastic opportunity – I can't believe how lucky I am to get this job!"

Sarah's journey into the world of childcare began a few years ago, when, as a teenager, she helped her aunt look after her baby. "I just took a real liking to it," said Sarah.

Following advice from careers advisers at her school, Sarah visited BCoT's Child Care and Early Years department, spoke to the tutors, and "just knew this was a path I wanted to follow." Sarah continued, "I started off on the Level 2 Child Care course, and what I really liked about this was that 90% of the course was spent out on placements. I continued onto the Level 3 Child Care, and continued to spend 2 days a week at either a nursery, or school. It became clear to me that I enjoyed the challenge of working with young school children, particularly those with behavioural difficulties – there was a broader appeal. This is what ultimately led me to the decision that I want to become a primary school teacher."

During her final year at BCoT, a ski company based in Fleet visited the college to chat about employment opportunities for working with children in their ski resorts.

"I thought wow! I would like to go for this! So I applied, and was invited to go for an interview shortly afterwards.

"It was a group interview and I had to demonstrate an activity in front of everyone – this was very daunting! I presented a treasure chest made up of all manmade materials and had to show how I would use these as a basis for children's activities. We also had a written test which covered topics such as allergy awareness, and also how you would respond to certain situations – I was very glad when it was all over!"

Sarah waited one long week to hear the news she wanted – she got the job! She was also told where she would be working, in St Anton in Austria. She will be working with up to 20 children per day in a nursery for five months, six days a week.

"I am thrilled with how things have turned out for me, all the hard work has definitely paid off! It's true what they say – 'Life's a climb, but when you get to the top, the view is just great!'"

Aim Higher Event

School student visited Basingstoke College of Technology for an Aim Higher event, which was set up to encourage more pupils to go on to college after completing their GCSE's. Rachael demonstrated the interactive baby dolls which are used with all levels of students undertaking child care courses. The interactive dolls give students the experience of looking after a baby. Each doll can be set up to follow a routine of needing to be feed, cuddled, winded and have a nappy change. Weighing the same as an average 3 month old baby the dolls even have a smell that resembles that of a baby, making them very life like.



Pyjamas and cakes raise £100's for Children in Need

Something a little out of the ordinary took place at BCoT recently, when students came dressed in pyjamas, baked cakes, and shook buckets! Yes, it was Children in Need!

Two groups of Health Care and Early Years students set about raising as much money as possible for the charity, and some even came in on their day off! One of the students leading the pyjama brigade, Jocasta Wilson, said:

"We loved getting into the spirit of the day and could not believe how generous staff and students were! We raised an unbelievable £310.15 for charity and are really glad we came in on our day off to dress up."



The other group of learners in the Level One Health and Social Care Group B raised a wonderful £106.50 by selling their home-made cakes. They also held a 'Guess the Teddy's Name' competition which was won by Brian Adams from Construction was the lucky winner of the teddy "Charlie."

Hannah Johnson, Co-ordinating lecturer in Childcare and Early Years, said: **"It was great fun raising money for Children in Need. The effort students went to making posters, organising the competition and baking cakes in their own time was impressive. I was extremely proud of all the students who took part."**

Molly begins her teaching course at University

"After completing my CACHE course in July 2010, I was delighted to begin studying a degree in teacher training and the University of Chichester. I was really glad I came to BCoT as it prepared me for the University workload and gave me the confidence I needed to write the assignments."

"BCoT allowed me increase my confidence both socially and intellectually. BCoT is a safe and welcoming environment for all students, before I started I was really nervous but everyone is really friendly and within the first week I felt settled."

"I really enjoyed the course at BCoT, my favourite module was child development; we learnt how different factors can affect a child's development from before the baby is born up until they are 8 years old. It was really interesting and captured my imagination. The lecturers really made the course come to life; they used a variety of activities to engage us and always gave us lots of encouragement in whatever we were doing."

"The course allowed me to complete work experience in a nursery, pre-school and an infant school. I got the opportunity to see what it would be like to work in each environment and to see what it would be like to work in a school. The experience undoubtedly gave me the confidence to go to University."

After university I want to be an outstanding primary school teacher and eventually become a Head of Year"



Former BCoT student is set to start her masters

Former BCoT student Hannah Sweet is preparing to start her masters next week, after achieving a First Class Honours in her Psychology degree at the University of Kent. Hannah, who studied a BTEC National Diploma in Early Years at BCoT, said "it feels like I have never left, it is always a lively and friendly college".

Hannah came back to the college for a day to visit the staff from the Health, Care & Early Years department, due to the good relationship she, was able to build with them during her time at BCoT. She commented on their supportive nature and the large amount of respect they showed her during her course. Hannah, who has home schooled, claimed this was hugely important to her as she did not know anyone when she first came to college.

Initially Hannah chose to come to BCoT due to the large range of placements the National Diploma offered, allowing her to gain industry experience that would prepare her for full time work. "The Steiner School placement matched my interests; I found it different but positively challenging".

Before BCoT Hannah did not consider university as a possible option for her but is currently preparing to move to London to undertake an MA in Psychoanalytic Studies at Goldsmith's College, University of London. "BCoT encouraged me to work independently and research by myself, which helped develop my skills ready for university". Her decision to study psychology was derived from her enjoyment from the unit on the National Diploma.

After completing her masters Hannah wants to lecture at a university while studying for a PhD.

Meet the Care Staff

Sally Peacock BA(Hons)

Head of Curriculum

Sally started her career in the RAF, successfully ran a crèche and day nursery and became an NVQ Assessor. As well as teaching part time, Sally gained a Cert Ed at Greenwich University followed by a BA. Sally oversees and supports staff in delivering successful courses across the department.

Sue Ford BSc

Programme Manager, Early Years

Sue worked for 8 years with special needs children and the child protection team for a local health authority and previously had 10 years experience in main stream primary schools and pre schools. With her extensive background knowledge of child development Sue is a valuable member of the team and now lectures on all levels of childcare courses.

Denise Day

Lecturer, Early Years

Denise's 20 years experience of working with young children including managing pre schools, provides a wealth of knowledge and understanding of child care provision. Her experience of NVQ observations and assessments are invaluable in relation to the support Denise provides to all students in linking theory to practice. She now teaches on Level 1 – 3 courses.



"Hannah Sweet is a credit to your college... thanks for the hard work and effort that must have gone into producing such a rounded and intelligent student".

Comment from the University of Kent

Di Hayden BA(Hons)

Lecturer, Early Years

Di is a practicing health visitor who lectures on all levels of courses. She brings with her a vast knowledge and understanding in relation to current health opportunities for the wellbeing of children and their families; as well as the specialist care required in relation to the care and development of babies and very young children.

Brooke Abbott

Lecturer, Early Years

Brooke provides the department with a wealth of knowledge on employment opportunities for students, having managed her own nanny agency and worked closely with young children and families. Brooke's specialist area of play is a valuable asset for students across all levels. She teaches on Level 1 – 3 and the Vocational Skills Programme childcare courses.

Amanda Staplehurst

Lecturer, Early Years

Before joining BCoT Amanda was a nursery SENCO and training mentor for NVQ's. Her passion and success in the industry allowed her to work her way up to nursery management. She is an integral team member who uses her experience to develop future practitioners within the workplace'.