

# EQ115-15 Understanding Childhood and Child Development

**25/26**

**Department**

Education Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 1

**Module leader**

Mark Pulsford

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This module introduces students to the interdisciplinary study of childhood, children, and child development. It draws upon multiple discourses within education, psychology, sociology, social care and health to provide a holistic and ecological understanding of children and young people's experiences. Students will examine the various ways that childhood is understood and conceptualised, and gain an insight into the developmental trajectories of children and factors that influence their development. Taking an interdisciplinary approach allows students to develop a critical understanding of the contested nature of childhood and perspectives on child development.

### Module aims

Understand the lives of children and young people from a range of interdisciplinary perspectives.  
Examine the various ways that childhood can be understood and conceptualised.

Understand the developmental trajectories of children and factors that influence their development.

Explore a range of contemporary topics and debates in childhood.

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Introduce students to the interdisciplinary approach to studying children and childhood; Different perspectives from childhood studies and child psychology will be compared and contrasted; A range of contemporary topics and debates in childhood will be explored and critiqued from a range of perspectives.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the different perspectives on childhood and evaluate their usefulness
- Explain how children develop holistically and in specific developmental domains (physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and language).
- Critically discuss contemporary topics and debates in childhood

## Indicative reading list

Crowley, K., 2017. Child development: A practical introduction. Sage.

Keenan, T., Evans, S. and Crowley, K., 2016. An introduction to child development. Sage.

Murray, L., 2014. The psychology of babies: How relationships support development from birth to two. Hachette UK.

Powell, S. and Smith, K. eds., 2017. An introduction to early childhood studies. Sage.

## Interdisciplinary

The module examines perspectives on childhood and child development from within education, psychology, sociology, social care and health.

## Subject specific skills

Present and evaluate research findings in early childhood

Reflect upon a range of psychological, sociological, health, historical and philosophical perspectives and consider how these underpin different understandings of babies and young children and childhood.

Apply multiple perspectives to early childhood issues, recognising that early childhood studies involves a range of research methods, theories, evidence and applications.

Integrate ideas and findings across the multiple perspectives in early childhood studies and recognise distinctive early childhood studies approaches to relevant issues.

Evaluate competing positions in relation to the construction of babies and young children and childhood by different subjects, societal agents and time, place and culture.

Constructively critique theories, practice and research in the area of child development.

Recognise and challenge inequalities in society, and embrace an anti-bias approach.

## Transferable skills

Active listening  
Character/personality  
Cognitive flexibility  
Communication skills  
Coordinating with others  
Critical thinking  
Emotional intelligence  
International cultural awareness  
Interpersonal and communication  
Passion  
Reasoning  
Team working

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	10 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
Private study	85 hours (57%)
Assessment	35 hours (23%)
Total	150 hours

### Private study description

Independent study hours include background reading, completing reading/other tasks in preparation for timetabled teaching sessions, undertaking research using the library resources, follow-up reading work, working on individual and group projects, the completion of formative and summative assignments, revision.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

## Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Essay	100%	35 hours	Yes (extension)

Students will choose one question to answer from a list provided. Each question will ask students to critically engage with a range of perspectives on an issue from the module, requiring an understanding across the topics covered.

## Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided using the Education Studies feedback sheet.

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## Availability

## Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of UEQA-X35B Undergraduate Education Studies