



# Early Childhood Development BTEC

Prepared by: R Harris

## Unit 1: Children's Development

This unit requires students to explore children's developmental progress from birth up to eight years, examining theories, principles, and factors relating to development. The assessment will be an examination including short- and long-answer questions and case studies, focusing on principles, patterns, theories, models, and factors impacting development.

### Task: Investigating a Developmental Stage or Theory

**Description:** Choose **one** of the five areas of development discussed in the unit (Physical, Cognitive, Language, Emotional, or Social development). Research the typical milestones for children aged 2-5 years in your chosen area.

Choose one theorist mentioned in the unit content related to development (e.g., Piaget, Vygotsky, Bowlby, Skinner, Bandura, Bronfenbrenner) and write a brief summary (e.g., 150-200 words) of their main idea about how children develop.

## Unit 3: Play and Learning

This unit explores the concept of play, the influence of theories and approaches, and the benefits of play and learning activities for children. It is an internally assessed unit. Learning aims include examining types and benefits of play, investigating theoretical perspectives, understanding curriculum approaches, and planning activities.

### Task: Exploring Types of Play and Their Benefits

**Description:** Choose two different types of play (e.g., physical, imaginative, sensory, creative art, construction, social stages like solitary or parallel). For each chosen type, find or describe an example of an activity suitable for children aged 5-8 years. Then, explain at least one way each activity supports children's learning and development in a specific area (e.g., physical, cognitive, language, social, emotional).

# Transition Task



## Unit 4: Research and Reflective Practice

This unit focuses on how research findings influence policy and provision in the early years sector (0-8 years) and introduces the importance of reflective practice for professionals. Learning aims cover understanding research types and sources, the purpose and impact of research, and knowing and applying theories of reflective practice. Synoptic assessment links this unit with Unit 1 and Unit 2.

### Task: Finding and Summarising a Piece of Early Years Research/Policy

**Description:** Search online for a recent news article or a summary report from a reliable source (such as a local authority, government department, charity, university research group, or professional publication) about something affecting children aged 0-8 years, such as a new policy, a health initiative, an educational approach, or research findings.

**Write a short summary** (e.g., 150-200 words) of what you found, briefly explaining what the research/policy is about and why it is relevant to the early childhood sector.