



SUBJECT & QUALIFICATION: OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Child Development

Why is the study of Child development important?

The Cambridge National in Child Development provides an engaging and comprehensive introduction to the childcare sector. It gives learners the unique opportunity to understand how children develop from pre-conception through to five years of age, blending essential theoretical knowledge with vital practical skills.

Students are empowered to apply what they learn directly to practical, real-life situations, such as:

- Preparing a nutritious feed or meal for a child.
- Researching and choosing suitable, safe equipment for a childcare setting.
- Planning, organizing, and evaluating appropriate play activities.
- Identifying hazards and helping to prevent accidents in early years settings.

What skills will the study of Child development teach you?

Studying this course helps you cultivate critical personal and professional skills that are highly valued in work and life situations, including:

- **Research and Decision-Making Skills:** Learning how to independently research topics—such as evaluating different safety equipment choices—and explaining the reasoning behind decisions.
- **Communication and Advisory Skills:** Developing the ability to present observations, interact professionally, and provide clear recommendations (e.g., advising a nursery on accident prevention).
- **Critical Thinking, Analysis, and Evaluation:** Learning to observe children logically, assess their developmental needs, and evaluate the success of planned activities.
- **Independence and Professionalism:** Building the organization, deadline-management, and self-reflection necessary to successfully manage project portfolios.



What will you know and understand from your study of Child development?

Through the exploration of three mandatory core units, you will know and understand:

1. **Unit R057 (Health and well-being):** The importance of pre-conception health, reproduction, antenatal care, preparation for birth, postnatal care, childhood illnesses, and creating conditions where a child can thrive.
2. **Unit R058 (Safe environments and nutrition):** How to protect children from accidents, choose appropriate nursery equipment, and understand the specific nutritional and dietary guidelines for children from birth to five years.
3. **Unit R059 (Development from 1 to 5 years):** The physical, intellectual, and social developmental norms of young children, alongside the different stages/types of play and how they explicitly benefit a child's development.

How can you deepen your understanding of Child development?

To maximize your potential and build deep subject mastery, you can:

- Engage with the provided **OCR Sample Assessment Materials on Teach Cambridge** to practice exam-style questions and build confidence with diagnostic command/descriptor words.
- Conduct independent, wider research utilizing current **Government dietary recommendations** for healthy eating to enhance your coursework depth.
- Apply your theoretical knowledge to real-world contexts through active self-reflection, seeking feedback from peers, parents, or childcare workers to continuously refine your planning methods.

How are you assessed in Child development?

There are 6 assessment points each year that we term **Praising Stars®**. We assess how students at their current stage of study are on track to reach their end of stage targets which are formulated on aspirational expectation from their Key Stage 2 starting points. We make an informed prediction from our holistic assessments based on our subject mapping of expectation across the Child development curriculum. The overall qualification is graded across Level 1 (Pass, Merit, Distinction) and Level 2 (Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*) and is balanced as follows:

- **40% External Examination:** Set and marked by the exam board.



OPEN ELEMENT SUBJECT OVERVIEW

- **60% Non-Examined Assessment (NEA):** Center-assessed portfolio assignments marked by your teacher and moderated by the exam board.

Key Assessment Objectives

AO1: Recall and Demonstrate Knowledge – Recalling facts, terms, and principles regarding pre-conception health, childhood illnesses, and safety norms.

AO2: Apply Understanding – Applying theoretical principles to practical scenarios, such as creating precise meal plans or safe environment recommendations for nurseries.

AO3: Analyse and Evaluate – Reviewing research data, interpreting child observation findings, and evaluating play activities to suggest improvements.

Coursework requirements

The **Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)** require students to strictly adhere to the following parameters:

- **Live Assignments:** Tasks must be completed using the official, live OCR-set assignments valid for the specific submission year.
- **Portfolio Organization:** Work must be structured and saved electronically in an organized folder tree, keeping Unit R058 and Unit R059 evidence strictly separate.
- **Authenticity and GDPR:** All portfolios must be completely independent, individual work. In accordance with data protection, any reference to real individuals used during child observations must be fully anonymized.

How can Child development support your future?

This qualification establishes an ideal foundation for progression. It provides you with crucial transferable skills—such as critical analysis, project management, and empathetic communication—which are valuable across all professional and life avenues. It satisfies Department for Education requirements for Key Stage 4 Performance Tables, opening secure academic tracks into advanced Level 3 courses, further technical education, or professional training placements.



Study of Child Development can lead to a wide range of careers:

Early Years Educator / Nursery Nurse
Primary School Teacher or Teaching Assistant
Midwife or Pediatric Nurse
Child Psychologist or Social Worker
Health Visitor or Community Care Worker

Child Development Course Overview

Term	Year 1	Year 2
Autumn 1	<p>Introduction to Unit R058</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching nursery equipment safety and accident prevention. 	<p>Unit R059 Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiling the Child Observation task and designing play activity plans.
Autumn 2	<p>Unit R058 (Cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating safe environments and mapping nutritional/dietary needs. 	<p>Introduction to Unit R057</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-conception health, reproduction, and lifestyle factors.
Spring 1	<p>Unit R058 Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating safe environments and mapping nutritional/dietary needs. 	<p>Unit R057 (Cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antenatal care, role of the midwife, and preparation for birth.
Spring 2	<p>Unit R058 Finalisation & Submission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal moderation, standardisation, and uploading of electronic portfolios. 	<p>Unit R057 (Cont.) & Exam Prep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postnatal checks, illnesses, and establishing safe environments.
Summer 1	<p>Introduction to Unit R059</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical, intellectual, and social developmental norms (1–5 years). 	<p>Unit R057 External Examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sitting the mandatory 1 hour 15 minute written paper.
Summer 2	<p>Unit R059 (Cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning the stages and types of play and how they benefit a child. 	<p>Course Completion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-results review and preparation for Level 3 / T-Level vocational care pathways.

