

Module specification

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Module Code	ONLED07
Module Title	Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood
Level	7
Credit value	15
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100459
Cost Code	GAEC
Pre-requisite module	None

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
MA Education with Early Childhood	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	15 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	15 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	135 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	150 hrs

Module aims

This module aims to develop an area of professional interest derived from contemporary issues in early childhood education. For students to reflect critically upon own value-based roles and responsibilities within the international context of multi-professional and integrated environments. To develop autonomy in investigating and reflecting upon an issue of professional interest and synthesise subject knowledge through a reflective approach in complex situations. To demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights associated with exploring contemporary issues in early childhood practice.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically evaluate current issues, challenges and ethical dilemmas within the field of early childhood.
2	Critically reflect upon theories, assumptions, concepts and data to achieve solutions to work-based problems.
3	Critically evaluate the implications to personal and professional learning and the potential impact of the investigation's outcomes on the organisation.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment 1: Conduct a literature review on current issues, challenges, and ethical dilemmas within the field of early childhood. Synthesise relevant literature to critically evaluate these issues and dilemmas. Reflect on the theories, assumptions, concepts, and data presented in the literature to propose solutions to work-based problems in early childhood

Assessment 2: Write a report that critically evaluates the implications of your literature review findings on personal and professional learning, as well as the potential impact of these findings on the organisation. Reflect on how the insights gained from the literature review can inform personal development and professional practices. Analyse the potential organisational implications and propose strategies for implementation or adaptation based on the findings from your literature review.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1 & 2	Written Assignment	1500 words	50	N/A
2	3	Written Assignment	1500 words	50	N/A

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The overall learning and teaching strategy is one of guided independent study, in the form of distance learning requiring ongoing student engagement. On-line learning materials will be provided as weekly sessions whereby the student is required to log-in and engage on a



regular basis throughout the module. There will be a mix of video recordings, with supporting notes/slides, containing embedded digital content and self-checks for students to complete as they work through the module and undertake their assessed tasks. The use of a range of digital tools via the virtual learning environment together with additional sources of reading will also be utilised to accommodate accessibility.

The basis for working with online materials will be through self-directed study and regular online communication with tutors/peers. Students are encouraged to interact with each other and tutors through a range of communication tools.

Welsh Elements

Students are entitled to submit assessments in the medium of Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- International perspectives
- Issues and themes in Early Childhood
- Transformative Practice
- Norms and Values in Curricula
- Multimodal engagements
- Quality in Early Childhood
- School Readiness
- Qualifications and quality

Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads:

Kurowski, A. and Lyndon, S. (eds.) (2025), *Contemporary Issues and the 21st Century Child: New Perspectives on Childhood*. London: Sage.

Other indicative reading:

Georgeson, J. and Payler, J. (2013), *International Perspectives on Early Childhood Education and Care*. Berkshire: Open University Press.

Yelland, N. (eds) (2010), *Contemporary Perspectives on Early Childhood Education*. Berkshire: Open University Press.

Journals

Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood (available at <https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ciea/25/1>)

Early Childhood Research

Early Years



Administrative Information

For office use only	
Initial approval date	04/11/2019
With effect from date	02/03/2020
Date and details of revision	Apr 2024: updated assessment strategy, syllabus outline and reading list Mar 2025: revalidated during Education Subject level review
Version number	3

