University of Suffolk

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	**BA (Hons) Childhood**
Awarding Bodies	**University of Suffolk**
Level of Award[1]	**FHEQ Level 6**
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	**None**
Credit Structure[2]	**360 Credits** **Level 4: 120 Credits** **Level 5: 120 Credits** **Level 6: 120 Credits**
Mode of Attendance	**Full-time**
Standard Length of Course[3]	**3 years full-time**
Intended Award	**BA (Hons) Childhood** **BA (Hons) Childhood: Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner** **BA (Hons) Childhood: Social Pedagogy Practitioner**
Named Exit Awards	**BA Childhood** **DipHE Childhood** **CertHE Childhood**
Entry Requirements[4]	• **112 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent)** • **BBC (A-level), DMM (BTEC)** • **GCSE Maths and English at grade 4 or above (or equivalent)**
Delivering Institution(s)	**University of Suffolk**
UCAS Code	**X300**

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Childhood course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2027-28 academic year[5].

Course Summary

The BA (Hons) Childhood programme embraces an interdisciplinary, multifaceted philosophy which offers an expansive platform upon which to critically explore childhoods and children's lives. You will engage with children, understand their rights, listen to their experiences, and prioritise these without imagining to be fully cognisant of the child's world. You will be equipped to do this through a range of modules, which build on a diversity of social sciences without privileging one perspective over another. Through this array of lenses, you will interrogate

[1] For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)
[2] All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the Higher education credit framework for England.
[3] Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards.
[4] Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the Admissions Policy and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the University's DBS webpage.
[5] The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the Admissions Policy.

contemporary issues and debates within childhood from local, national and international contexts. An in-depth understanding of diversity and difference in children and childhoods will enabling you to develop, adopt and champion inclusive and participatory attitudes and practice throughout your studies and into your future career. We want to equip you with the skills to become change agents in your future organisations and communities.

The programme is offered within the School of Business, Arts, Social Sciences and Technology.

The programme focuses on the multi-disciplinary nature of the study of childhood, which embraces diverse academic disciplines such as sociology, education, psychology, philosophy, social policy and health. During your study, you will have the opportunity to acquire specific knowledge and understanding in specialised aspects of childhood and their associated career opportunities through one of two discreet optional pathways.

Each year consists of a full-time academic programme (120 credits of academic modules) in combination with potential additional practice modules for specific pathways. Throughout the programme and where applicable, practice provision is organised by yourself with the support of the course leader and practice module leaders. Practice will involve practical experience in appropriate settings or organisations relating to your specific chosen pathway.

Pathway 1: Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner

This pathway examines early and primary education and the underpinning values of professional practice. Practice modules are available within this pathway. This course pathway includes the Early Childhood Graduate Competencies certification, developed by the Early Childhood Degree Network (ECSDN) and supported by the Department for Education (DfE), which is integrated within this course, and which will be awarded to you at the same time as your degree, upon successful completion.

Pathway 2: Social Pedagogy Practitioner

This pathway examines the principles of social pedagogy and standards for professional practice in work with children, young people and families. Practice modules are available within this pathway. This course pathway includes the Social Pedagogy Practitioner endorsement, recognised by the Social Pedagogy Professional Association (SPPA), which is integrated within this course, and which will be awarded to you at the same time as your degree, upon successful completion.

If you do not wish to pursue a specific pathway, you can choose modules from across the routes and achieve a degree without additional certifications/endorsements. You would then receive a BA (Hons) Childhood award.

Course Aims

- Develop a professional understanding of children's lives through multiple disciplinary perspectives, examining discourses of childhood and related social policies
- Cultivate a critical and reflexive understanding of the multiple theories, perspectives, and philosophies surrounding childhood(s) to develop a holistic approach in practice
- Develop an understanding of contemporary issues and debates surrounding childhood(s) in local, national, and international contexts
- Promote and integrate inclusive practices that acknowledge children's rights, diversity, and inclusion

- Develop transferable skills, including professional values, ethics, and attitudes that are essential for employment, further study, and personal development

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Childhood course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)[6].

Students who successfully complete the BA (Hons) will have demonstrated:

1. A systematic understanding and acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge of key aspects of different disciplinary perspectives of childhood(s)
2. A well-developed ability to devise and sustain arguments, to comment upon aspects of relevant current research, and ability to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of the disciplines around childhood(s)
3. A well-developed ability to critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data, to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to - identify a range of solutions to a problem
4. A well-developed ability to apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects
5. A well-developed ability to manage their own learning, to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources in order to communicate, both orally and in writing, information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences
6. Well-developed professional values, ethics, and attitudes showing exercise of initiative and personal responsibility, decision-making in a range of contexts and reflective and reflexive skills to be able to identify and undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

Students completing the Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner pathway will also have demonstrated:

7. Well-developed practice knowledge and skills, and the ability to critically reflect, evaluate and make connections between taught modules and practice experience in line with the Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner competencies
8. Leadership, support and collaborative work with others and an understanding of working effectively in teams with parents, carers and other professionals

Students completing the Social Pedagogy Practitioner pathway will also have demonstrated:

9. Well-developed professional values, ethics and attitudes, and their application to own practice in line with social pedagogy standards
10. Application of relationship-centred approach based on a social pedagogy lens within own practice with children and families

[6] As set out in the QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2024)

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Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2024)
- QAA Early Childhood Studies Benchmark Statement (2022)

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Childhood comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type[7]
Level 4			
	Child Development and Education	30	R
	Children's Wellbeing and Inclusion	30	R
	Children's Rights, Social Policy and Social Justice	30	R
	The Personal and Professional Self	30	R
Students who wish to complete the Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner pathway, must take the following module:			
	Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner 1	0	M
Level 5			
	Contemporary Debates in Childhood and Education	30	R
	Research and Developing Practice	30	M
	Safeguarding	30	R
	Individual Literature paper	30	O (recovery)
Students who do not wish to choose a specific pathway can choose 30 credits from any of the modules below:			
Students who wish to complete the Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner pathway, must take the following modules:			
	Developing as an Educational Practitioner	30	M
	Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner 2	0	M
Students who wish to complete the Social Pedagogy Practitioner pathway, must take the following modules:			
	Social Pedagogy in Practice	30	M
	Social Pedagogy Practitioner 1	0	M
Level 6			

[7] Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards

	Independent Project	30	M
	Creative and Alternative Education	30	R
	Children's Spaces and Places	30	R
	Applied Studies	30	O (recovery)
	Students who do not wish to choose a specific pathway can choose 30 credits from any of the modules below:		
Students who wish to complete the Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner pathway, must take the following modules:			
	Leading as a Practitioner	30	M
	Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner 3	0	M
Students who wish to complete the Social Pedagogy Practitioner pathway, must take the following modules:			
	Childhoods in Context	30	M
	Social Pedagogy Practitioner 2	0	M

The optional recovery modules are only available in the exceptional circumstances where a student must retrieve credits to ensure progression or where a standard optional module cannot be delivered.

Awards

At the end of your course and on successful completion of 360 credits including all mandatory modules, you will achieve a BA (Hons) Childhood award. If you successfully complete 360 credits, including all modules noted as mandatory for the Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner pathway, you will achieve a BA (Hons) Childhood: Early Childhood Graduate Practitioner award. If you successfully complete 360 credits, including all modules noted as mandatory for the Social Pedagogy Practitioner pathway, you will achieve a BA (Hons) Childhood: Social Pedagogy Practitioner award. If you leave the course early, you may be eligible for the exit award BA Childhood on successful completion of at least 300 credits at level 4 or above, with at least 180 credits at level 5 or above, and at least 60 credits at level 6. Or you may be eligible for a Diploma of Higher Education in Childhood on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a Certificate of Higher Education in Childhood on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

In exceptional circumstances, where a student is not able to meet the practice requirements of one of the two optional pathways within the respective 0-credit bearing modules, a transfer to the BA (Hons) Childhood programme can be considered.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered in Ipswich at the University of Suffolk. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Childhood will be taught within a blended learning environment where structured tutor-led learning is delivered on-campus, with online activities being completed independently. Students are likely to have approximately 72 hours structured tutor-led time per module for level 4, 72 hours structured tutor-led time per module for level 5, and 54 hours structured tutor-led time per module for level 6. This tutor-led time will be a mix of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities such as lectures, seminars, tutorials, and learning activities.

Students will normally be expected to undertake 12 hours of independent study per academic module in an average week, alongside independent study and preparation related to the

school placement and practice module. Students should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Overall, assessment on the course will be mostly coursework (including portfolios, essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) alongside some traditional essay based and multiple-choice examinations and practical assessments.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Childhood will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£10,050 per year
Full-time EU/International	£16,000 per year

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Optional field trips may be offered which incur additional costs.

Students will be expected to fund their own travel to their school placement and the provision of an Enhanced DBS and yearly update. The cost of DBS checks can be found on the DBS page of the University of Suffolk website.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the website.