



Level 3 CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

Student Profile

This programme is designed for people who wish to gain an understanding of the principles and practice of Child Psychology, and the development of children. No prior knowledge is required.

Objectives

The objectives of the course are to:

- Develop an awareness of psychological approaches to the understanding of child development
- Develop a recognition of the application of developmental psychology to certain aspects of child care and education
- Create an awareness of different methodological approaches to psychological investigation
- Develop a range of skills in using psychological methods

Study Method

The course is designed for study by distance learning at work or at home. Students receive course manual, assignments and studyguide plus tutor support by mail and email. You can start at any time and plan your studies over a period of up to one year from the time of enrolment.

Assessment

Each element is followed by a written assignment, which is submitted and then marked by your tutor. There is no external examination required.

Course Accreditation

At the end of this course successful learners will receive a level 3 NCFE Award certificate of achievement. That means that it is independently accredited at a level of learning equivalent to level 3 on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The course is provided in conjunction with Kendal Publishing Limited - a licenced NCFE centre.

NCFE is recognised as an awarding body by the qualification regulators for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The regulators are the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual) in England, the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DCELLS) in Wales and the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) in Northern Ireland

Course Duration

Students may register at any time and have a full year to complete their studies. The course will take around 90 hours of study to complete.

Pack/Course Contents

Your study pack is dispatched in full at the time of enrolment and provides all you need to complete your studies:

- Studyguide
- Comprehensive study notes for each element of the course
- Self-assessment activities
- Assignments
- Tutor support
- Assignment marking & feedback
- Certification

Price and Payment Methods

Please refer to current price list

Course Outline

Major Developmental Issues

1. The First Year of Life

Infant reflexes; Social development during the first year of life including the social smile and onset of fear of strangers.

2. The Formation of Attachments

Imprinting; Attachment (Bowlby) including cross-cultural studies; Harlow and surrogate mothers; Relevance of animal studies in child development.

3. Consequences of Breakdowns in Attachments

Maternal deprivation; Implications of theories of attachment and maternal deprivation when placing children with surrogates.

4. The Home, Family and School

Group vs family care and studies of effects of maternal employment and father absent families; Importance of peers and siblings.

5. Basic Principles of Research Methods

Nature and purpose of research, what is an experiment, supporting and refuting hypotheses, independent and dependent variables, control of variables, standardised instructions and procedures, methods of sampling, design of investigations.

6. The Development of Visual Perception

Introduction to the nature/nurture debate on visual perception; Fantz - form perception; Gibson and Walk - depth perception; how the physiology of the human visual system helps us judge depth and distance; Bower - size constancy; animal experiments on early sensory deprivation.

7. The Development of Language and Communication

Development of non-verbal communication in humans, gestures etc; comparisons with non-human primates; outline of language development in humans; including naturalistic observational in humans; including naturalistic observational studies and criticisms of these; Innate and reinforcement theories.

8. Intelligence and Intelligence Testing

Definitions of intelligence; mental age and IQ; Tests of intelligence; Advantages and disadvantages of IQ testing.

9. The Nature/Nurture Debate in the Study of Intelligence

Twins studies; stability of IQ; Are early experiences decisive for later development?

10. Data Collection and Interpretation

Tables and histograms, correlation and scattergrams; Mean; Range; Drawing conclusions from data.

The Child as an Individual

11. How Children Think

Piaget's theory of cognitive development; including studies of egocentrism and criticisms of his work.

12. Learning Theory - How Behaviour is Acquired

Learning and conditioning - classical conditioning and operant conditioning; including explanations of extinction, discrimination and generalisation; positive and negative reinforcement; Social Learning Theory and criticisms.

13. Freud's Psychodynamic Theory - An Alternative Approach

Personality structure, 5 stage theory, criticisms.

14. Moral Development

Definition in psychological terms; investigation of moral behaviour, moral feelings and moral judgement.

15. The Development of Gender Roles

Sex-typing; Gender identity; Biological, social and cultural theories.

16. Aggression in Children

Biological basis of aggression; Psychological theory and aggression; Aggression as a learned response; Imitation of aggression; viewing violence; Punishment for aggression; sex differences in aggression.

17. Methods Used in Child Development Research

Observational, Survey, Correlational, Experimental - advantages and disadvantages.

18. Play

The importance of play to learning;
Piaget's theory of play; forms of play;
Relevance of psychological theories to pre-school education;
Play and learning in nursery schools; Play therapy.

19. Learning in School

Programmed learning and its relationship to learning theory - advantages and disadvantages;
Discovery learning and its effectiveness.

20. Behaviour Modification

Explanation and examples; Relationship to learning theory; Points systems, Advantages and disadvantages.