



Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in **Early Years Care & Education** (AL864)

This course develops early childhood specialists who can reflect upon and critically assess their own practice.

A path to a rewarding career

A high level of quality care and education is essential to support children's learning and development. The early years educator has a pivotal role in the provision of this quality care and education. Through this course, you will learn how to support children's strengths, interests and abilities, as well as appreciate the role of the family and society in the provision of education and care in their formative years.

As well as developing the core skills of providing education, care and support for young children, this programme develops the capacity to be an effective leader and manager in this rapidly changing sector.

Contact Us

Mr. Oliver Hegarty
Head of Dept. of Social Science
Athlone Institute of Technology
Tel: +353 (0)90 6442530
Email: ohegarty@ait.ie



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www.ait.ie/courses/AL864

What will I experience?

The aim of this course is to equip graduates with the competencies necessary to become reflective early years care and education practitioners. You will gain an in-depth understanding of child development, early learning theory and practice, and quality standards. You will learn how to critically appraise policies, procedures and principles in the early years care and education field.

On completion of this course, you will be able to design and deliver relevant curriculum activities, assume responsibility for decision-making, as well as independently conduct primary and secondary research. Our simulated early years setting will provide you with opportunities to practice, plan for and support children's interests and abilities. Students undertake 500 hours placement experience as part of this course.

What opportunities might it lead to?

The Early Years Care & Education (ECCE) field in Ireland can look forward to an exciting, dynamic and challenging future. It requires well informed leaders who are competent and confident in terms of education, regulation, policy, advocacy etc. Graduates can expect to find employment as early years practitioners and pre-school educators responsible for working directly with young children. Others roles include that of team leader responsible for running an ECCE room and possibly after-school. Other roles may include an Early Years Quality Mentor.

Work placement

Students experience the variety of the early years sector through placements in different childcare settings, thus providing the opportunity to link classroom learning with work-based practice.

Minimum entry requirements

Grade H5 at higher level in two subjects, plus Grade O6/H7 in four other subjects in the Leaving Certificate. Two of these subjects must be mathematics and a language (English or Irish).

Note: An FL2 in foundation level mathematics will be accepted as meeting the minimum mathematics requirements for entry to this course.

Mature applicants are not required to meet the minimum entry requirements. However, an interview may form part of the selection process.

What will I study?

Year 1: Learning & Development for HE, Sociology for Early Years, Principles and Practices in the Early Years Setting, An Introduction to Curriculum in the Early Years, Foundations of Child Development, Creative Skills in Art and Drama in the Early Years, Personal Development and Leadership, Promoting Health, Well-being in the Early Years, Placement Practice.

Year 2: Creative Skills and Play in the Early Years Setting, Social and Emotional Development of the Child, Early Childhood Law 1, Models of Education: Applying High Scope and Montessori in the Early Years Environment, Play and Physical Skills in the Early Years Setting, Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in the Early Years Setting, The Political Context of Childhood, Language and Cognitive Development, Applied Curriculum in the Early Years: A Dialogic Approach, Practice Placement.

Year 3: Pedagogical Approaches, Early Years Social Policy, Business Management in the Early Years Setting, Second Language Acquisition, Children's Rights – A political perspective, Introduction to Research Methods, Inclusion in the Early Years Setting, Early Childhood Law 2, Practice Placement.

Year 4: Policy & Practice in the Early Years, Responding to Children with Additional Needs, Recreational & Creative Play, Leadership in the Early Years Setting, Research Project, Running your own Early Years Business.