EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION COURSE MODULES

If you have a natural love for children and a strong interest in early childhood education, then why not play an active role in shaping a child’s growth with our Diploma in Early Childhood Development & Education [ECDE]?  

This course is conducted by the National Institute of Early Childhood Development [NIEC] in collaboration with Ngee Ann Polytechnic at the NIEC [NP] campus. The qualification is recognised by the Early Childhood Development Agency [ECDA] for graduates to register and practise as a preschool teacher in Singapore. It offers a well-developed curriculum and many exciting learning opportunities, to enable you to embark on a fulfilling journey to a promising career.  

From the first year of study, you will go on weekly attachments at childcare centres, which means you get the chance to apply and hone your skills alongside experienced teachers. You will also get to build your knowledge with foundational modules such as Child Development and Child Safety, Health & Socio-emotional Well-Being.  

In the second year, you will continue your field practicum while learning about the holistic development of a child, and curriculum planning and design. You will also learn how to encourage children to be curious learners and problem solvers.  

In the final year, you will deepen your knowledge in your area of interest with a suite of electives such as Music & Dance for Young Children and Drama for Preschool Education or take up modules in the Early Intervention track. You will also go on a six-month internship to put your skills and knowledge into practice.  

*Students either choose the Level 3.1 / 3.2 modules (with 2 electives) or the Early Intervention track (Level 3.1 / 3.2 modules).  

**LEVEL 3.1 / 3.2 (with 2 electives)**  

**Working with the Exceptional Child**  

This module introduces students to various exceptional needs in young children including physical, cognitive, behavioral, emotional and sensory characteristics that make them different. Trends and issues in relation to inclusive practices and policies will be covered. Students will learn about their roles in an inclusive learning environment, design of individualised learning plans and communication with families. Students will also explore community resources and professionals that provide support for children with additional needs.  

**Career & Professional Preparation III**  

This module equips students with personal grooming skills required in a professional setting. Students will be taught grooming and social etiquette as well as appropriate dressing. Other topics include personal hygiene, making small talk and handling difficult conversations.  

**Mentoring Programme 3**  

The focus of the life skills in level 3 is on responsible decision-making to help students make deliberate choices on work or university progression when they are in the last lap of their polytechnic education.  

**Project ID: Connecting the Dots^**  

This module aims to prepare students for an increasingly globalized and interconnected world where problems are multi-faceted and require interdisciplinary research and collaboration to solve. Using a project-based learning approach, students will have the opportunity to work in a multi-disciplinary team to investigate and propose comprehensive recommendations for a pressing real-world problem affecting Singapore. They will be guided to step out of their disciplinary silos and effectively communicate and collaborate with peers from different backgrounds. Ultimately, the module seeks to develop independent learning skills and the ability to synthesize diverse strands of knowledge to solve a complex problem, while impressing on students the importance of being a responsible global citizen.
**Electives [select 2]**

**Elective 1 - Assessment & Differentiated Instructions**
This module builds on the understanding of diverse family circumstances children come from. It then provides an overview of the skills and techniques to identify, assess and support learning, behavioural, psycho-social and communication needs in young children who are at risk of developing learning and behavioural challenges. Using the linked system of assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; students will be introduced to an array of assessment tools and the approaches involved in differentiating instructions to address specific needs of children in a preschool setting.

**Elective 2 - Assessment of Young Children**
This module provides an overview of the skills and techniques to identifying and assessing learning, behavioural, psycho-social and communication needs in young children with special needs or those who are at risk of developing learning and behavioral challenges. Students will be introduced to an array of assessment tools to help them understand children and be able to develop appropriate IEP goals. The cycle of assessing, planning, implementing, monitoring, reflecting and reassessing will be addressed.

**Elective 3 - Capstone Project**
This module brings the students through the experience of developing, implementing and presenting an EC-related project which is intended to improve teaching practice and / or benefit the community. The project will allow students to demonstrate interdisciplinary knowledge, investigative skills and their character traits and values. Students will learn to write project proposals, make decisions, solve problems and think critically.

**Elective 4 - Childhood Disorders & Disabilities**
In this module, students will learn about the genetic and ecological risk factors contributing to different types of disabilities. Definitions and presenting symptoms of disabilities including physical, sensory, intellectual and learning disabilities are discussed. Typical child development and how characteristics of the children with disabilities impact on their overall development will also be examined.

**Elective 5 - Children's Literature**
This module introduces students to children's literature and how it has reflected cultural, social and ideological change. Students will examine the ways in which the child has been depicted in literature, learn to appreciate and critique different genre of children's books and be able to select age-appropriate books for young children. A study of children's television and drama is included.

**Elective 6 - Early Intervention & Teaching Approaches**
This module introduces students to the development of the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) – a systematic plan that describes and prescribes the learning needs for the exceptional child. Students will also be introduced to a variety of activity-based strategies to help children with special needs develop language, literacy, social and functional skills as well as methods to manage their behaviours.

**Elective 7 - Drama for Preschool Education**
This module develops students’ critical thinking, imagination and creative expressions; discover and value themselves, seek novel experiences and be open to new ideas. Students will learn to plan and implement drama experiences for young children to guide them in developing confidence, empathy, appropriate communication, good oratory and literacy skills.

**Elective 8 - Issues & Trends in Early Intervention**
This module introduces students to the field of early intervention (special needs) in both inclusive and specialised settings for children from birth to 8 years. Students will examine the definitions, approaches and the inter- and multi-disciplinary services of early intervention in Singapore and internationally. Different theoretical perspectives, trends and latest developments will be examined. Policies and advocacy will be discussed and students will explore issues related to suitable placements for young children with special needs.

**Elective 9 - Music & Dance for Young Children**
This module equips students with the essential pedagogical knowledge and practical skills relevant to the various aspects of music and dance experiences for young children. Students will learn to plan and facilitate activity-based lessons that include music and dance, aural skills, sight singing, body movements, playing with rhythm and beats through the use of various musical instruments.

**Elective 10 - Teaching Literacy to Diverse Learners**
This module builds on the knowledge gained in Language and Literacy and prepares students to apply effective instructional methods for the teaching of reading, writing and speaking English. The module also addresses the needs of diverse learners in terms of their abilities, cultural, racial and linguistic differences, and considers the linguistic development of learners from differing backgrounds. Differentiated strategies will be introduced to cater for learners' varying needs and addressing issues in language acquisition. Creative planning with an amalgamation of language arts techniques in the area of music and movement, storytelling, dramatic arts and children's literature, and the employment of technology in literacy teaching will be included, to cater for the diverse needs of these learners.

**LEVEL 3.1 / 3.2**

**Early Intervention Track**

**Working with the Exceptional Child**
This module introduces students to various exceptional needs in young children including physical, cognitive, behavioral, emotional and sensory characteristics that make them different. Trends and issues in relation to inclusive practices and policies will be covered. Students will learn about their roles in an inclusive learning environment, design of individualised learning plans and communication with families. Students will also explore community resources and professionals that provide support for children with additional needs.

**Assessment of Young Children**
This module provides an overview of the skills and techniques to identifying and assessing learning, behavioural, psycho-social and communication needs in young children with special needs or those who are at risk of developing learning and behavioral challenges. Students will be introduced to an array of assessment tools to help them understand children and be able to develop appropriate IEP goals. The cycle of assessing, planning, implementing, monitoring, reflecting and reassessing will be addressed.

**Childhood Disabilities & Disorders**
In this module, students will learn about the genetic and ecological risk factors contributing to different types of disabilities. Definitions and presenting symptoms of disabilities including physical, sensory, intellectual and learning disabilities are discussed. Typical child development and how characteristics of the children with disabilities impact on their overall development will also be examined.

**Early Intervention & Teaching Approaches**
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Career & Professional Preparation III
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Mentoring Programme 3
The focus of the life skills in level 3 is on responsible decision-making to help students make deliberate choices on work or university progression when they are in the last lap of their polytechnic education.

Project ID: Connecting the Dots
This module aims to prepare students for an increasingly globalized and interconnected world where problems are multi-faceted and require interdisciplinary research and collaboration to solve. Using a project-based learning approach, students will have the opportunity to work in a multi-disciplinary team to investigate and propose comprehensive recommendations for a pressing real-world problem affecting Singapore. They will be guided to step out of their disciplinary silos and effectively communicate and collaborate with peers from different backgrounds. Ultimately, the module seeks to develop independent learning skills and the ability to synthesize diverse strands of knowledge to solve a complex problem, while impressing on students the importance of being a responsible global citizen.

LEVEL 3.1 / 3.2

6-Month Internship / Project Student Internship Programme
The Internship Programme, with professional practitioners acting as mentors, enable students to acquire the work experience needed for their chosen areas of interest. The organisations involved are selected for their capacity to allow students to learn different aspects of work in the early childhood industry. The students' learning outcomes are assessed by their respective internship mentors and NIEC supervisors.

Students could also work closely with staff in the early childhood centres on projects that will benefit children, families and the community.

COURSE CURRICULUM

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<tr>
<th>Module Name</th>
<th>Credit Units</th>
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Mentoring Programme 3
Project ID: Connecting the Dots^ 4

Level 3.1 / 3.2 (22 hours per week)
Student Internship Programme 22

Notes:
^ For more details on Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) electives, please log on to www.np.edu.sg/is/

IS Modules
The School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) delivers a broad-based curriculum, which nurtures a new generation of professionals with multidisciplinary skills and an innovative and entrepreneurial spirit to meet the challenges of a knowledge economy. IS offers both prescribed modules and electives to challenge boundaries. Prescribed modules develop students' competencies in core areas such as Communication, Innovation and Enterprise, Culture and Communication, and Personal Mastery and Development, while elective modules provide insights into Arts and Humanities, Business, Design, and Science and Technology.