

General Enquiries

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Foundation Degree (FdA) in Early Years Practice

Location	Stockport College
Course Type	University level
Department	Childcare & Education
Start Date	Tuesday 8th September 2026
Duration	Full-time, Years
Time	-
Fee	£ 8000.00
Course Code	SFP-HE4J-1100

Course Overview

By linking current research and child development theory to professional practice, the course offers a professional development opportunity to those working in early years and childcare. There are established relationships with local and regional employers.

Course Requirements

Whilst applications are considered on an individual basis, offers are usually based on a requirement to have:

64 UCAS points

Level 3 qualification in a relevant subject

Other related level 3 qualifications

4 GCSEs at grade C (grade 4) or above, including maths and English

Access to Higher Education Diploma in a relevant area

Related work experience will be considered in the absence of level 3 equivalent qualifications.

What You Will Learn

The combination of study with workplace learning offers an opportunity to link theory and practice, develop understanding of how children learn, and develop and explore aspects of social policy that affects children and their families.

Assessment

A range of assessment methods are used including reports, essays, presentations, and portfolios. Typically, each module comprises one assessment, carefully designed to support and develop skills in independent thinking and learning.

Progression

Upon successful completion, students may apply to the BA (Hons) Level 6 Top up Childhood Studies, studied at the University Centre- Stockport College. Opportunities for career progression include management positions, PGCE Primary qualification routes, and Early Years teacher Status (EYTS).

Career Options

Graduates may pursue careers across a wide range of roles in the children and young people's sector, including:

- Early years manager
- Nursery manager
- Youth worker
- Teaching assistant
- Safeguarding
- Special needs and disability (SEN/SEND)

Mandatory Units

At Level 4, the following modules will be studied:

- The enabling practitioner in the 21st century
- The reflective student
- Learning and development
- Working together
- Pioneers and pedagogies- influences in the early years curriculum
- Effective teamwork

At Level 5, the following modules will be studied:

- The critically reflective student
- Safeguarding in practice
- Leadership and management
- Research theory and practice
- Positive relationships
- Practitioners as play partners

Extra Costs Involved

All candidates who are accepted for the programme will be expected to produce a current, valid, enhanced DBS certificate. If they do not hold one, then they will complete an application form which will be forwarded to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for a check under the Disclosure of Criminal Background - Protection of Children Act by the college staff. There will be a charge for this.

Exam Validation Body

Sheffield Hallam University

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Hours Per Week

As a full time student, you will attend one day per week, spend two days in an appropriate setting, and use the remaining time for independent study.

How Long To Complete

2 years

Programme Structure

Students will complete six modules each year, three each semester over 30 weeks. This is the equivalent of 240 credits over the duration of the course.

Contact Details

For further information please email HEenquiries@tcg.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.