



EDST1508

Understanding Child Development: Infants and Young Children

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

Macquarie School of Education

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit focuses on the development of infants and young children (birth-5 years) within the Australian social context. Theories and research, which describe and explain early childhood development and individual differences are critically examined. Implications for the cognitive, social/emotional, language and motor development during the first five years of life are also examined. Students will engage in making links between content and research, to observations and experiences with infants and young children.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are

available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Differentiate the main theories of child development.

ULO2: Understand key aspects of development specifically related to the infant, toddler and preschool years.

ULO3: Analyse the interconnection between biological and environmental factors, including cultural factors, that influence early development.

ULO4: Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of evidence-based claims in child development.

ULO5: Evaluate research findings to provide evidence-based conclusions relevant to complex issues in early development.

General Assessment Information

General Submission Information

Please format assessments using 12-point font and 1.5 spacing. All assessments must be submitted electronically.

Turnitin plagiarism detection software is used to check all written assessments.

It is the responsibility of all students to ensure that their submitted work is in a format compatible with Turnitin software for plagiarism checking. Submissions must meet the required file type and formatting specifications outlined in the assessment guidelines. Failure to submit work in an acceptable format may result in delays in processing your submission and potential penalties for non-compliance with assessment requirements. If you are unsure about the file format or have technical difficulties, it is your responsibility to seek assistance before the submission deadline. Students should be careful to check that they submit the correct file for an assessment as no re-submissions will be accepted after the due date and time, including instances where students upload an incorrect file. It is not the responsibility of unit staff to contact students who have failed to submit assessments.

If you have any missing items of assessment, it is your responsibility to contact the unit convenor.

Students can use Turnitin's Originality Report as a learning tool to improve their academic writing if this option is made available in the unit.

Word limits are strictly applied. Work above the word limit will not be marked. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Students should be aware of and apply the University policy on academic integrity (see: <https://policies.mq.edu.au/document/view.php?id=3>).

Any student suspected of using unauthorised AI in an assignment will be referred to the Faculty of Arts Discipline Committee. Penalties can include reduced marks for an assessment, being

awarded '0' for a task, failing an entire unit, being excluded from a course of study. Please see each assessment task description/rubric for expectations about AI.

Special Consideration / Late Penalties

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day an assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends) (see: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>).

Applications for extensions must be made via Service Connect. After the 7th day, a mark of 0 (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11:55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessments (incl. essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. A Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic. Marking All assessments are marked using a rubric.

Marking of all assessments is moderated by the Unit Convenor.

University Policy on Grading

Assignments will be awarded grades ranging from HD to F according to guidelines set out in the University's Grading System and University Assessment Policy.

Results

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed because they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit Service Connect. Withdrawing from this unit If you are considering withdrawing from this unit, please seek academic advice via Service Connect before doing so as this unit may be a co-requisite or prerequisite for units in the following sessions and may impact your course progression.

Use of Generative AI

Use of Generative AI is not permitted for assessments in this unit. We will not mark sections of assessment created using Generative AI.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Annotated bibliography</u>	50%	No	11/04/2025
<u>Final exam</u>	50%	No	Exam Period

Annotated bibliography

Assessment Type ¹: Annotated bibliography

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **11/04/2025**

Weighting: **50%**

Students will discuss and evaluate the findings of up to ten research studies related to specific areas of child development.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Differentiate the main theories of child development.
- Analyse the interconnection between biological and environmental factors, including cultural factors, that influence early development.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of evidence-based claims in child development.
- Evaluate research findings to provide evidence-based conclusions relevant to complex issues in early development.

Final exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **50%**

Students will complete a 2hr and 30 min exam (plus 10 mins reading time) that consists of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Differentiate the main theories of child development.
- Understand key aspects of development specifically related to the infant, toddler and preschool years.
- Analyse the interconnection between biological and environmental factors, including cultural factors, that influence early development.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Resources

This unit has two hours of weekly lectures and a one hour weekly tutorial. Make sure you have time in your schedule to complete the weekly lectures before attending the tutorial. Select a tutorial time that you are able to attend every week. The lectures and tutorials are essential for successful completion of the unit. You should not enrol in this unit if you are unable to engage with the weekly lectures and tutorials.

Required

Trawick-Smith, J. (2022). Early childhood development: A multicultural perspective (8th edition). Pearson - see <https://www.pearson.com/en-au/subject-catalog/p/early-childhood-development-a-multicultural-perspective/P200000001959/9780137545056?tab=title-overview>

It is essential to have weekly access to the textbook. Make sure you have the 8th edition.

Information about the unit iLearn site

This unit has a full web presence through iLearn. Information for students about access to the online component of this unit is available at <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/index.php>. You will need to enter your student username and password. Please do NOT contact the Unit Convenor regarding iLearn technical help. Assistance is available from IT Helpdesk: via email onehelp@mq.edu.au or Ph: 9850 4357 or 1800 67 4357. On Campus: Ground floor at 18 Wally's Walk.

Unit Schedule

Check iLearn for your weekly schedule. Topics to be covered include:

Concepts in infancy and early development
Classic theories to systems theories
Researching infant and early childhood development
Genetics and Prenatal Development
Physical and Motor Systems

Perceptual & Regulatory Systems
Early attention - cognitive
Early attention - social
Language
Temperament
Attachment
Significant relationships
Development of self

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the

University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support](#) including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

School of Education Procedures

In addition, the following policies and procedures for the Macquarie School of Education apply to this unit.

Academic Progression Policy

This unit is a part of a professional course listed on Schedules 2 and 3 of the Academic Progression Policy. This course has additional requirements that are applicable for the full duration of the course, including course-specific Inherent Requirements, Fitness to Practice requirements and other compulsory course requirements. It also has rigorous academic progression standards. Inability to meet these requirements may result in a withdrawal of offer of admission and/or permanent exclusion from the course in accordance with the General Coursework Rules.

Communication

It is the student's responsibility to check all electronic communication on a weekly basis. Communication may occur via:

- Official MQ Student Email Address
- The Dialogue function on iLearn
- Other iLearn communication functions

Attendance and Participation

See the University timetable for information about when classes begin in this unit.

[***Creating your timetable - Enrolling | Macquarie University, Sydney \(mq.edu.au\)***](#)

Attendance at all synchronous activities, completion of non-synchronous formative/diagnostic class tasks and involvement in professional forums is expected as the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) and the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) are professional qualifications. Activities completed during weekly tutorials (DAY or ONLINE DAY mode) are essential for building the core knowledge and/or skills required to demonstrate the learning outcomes of this unit and to meet the AITSL Graduate Teacher Standards and/or ACECQA requirements. Attendance at all tutorials and/or on campus days is expected and will be recorded. Students are required to attend the tutorial in which they are enrolled. Any changes to

tutorial enrolments must be completed officially through e-Student. Please do not contact the unit convenor to request a change.

Changes from Previous Offering

EDST1508 will be offered for the first time in 2025. We have considered feedback from previous child development units when designing EDST1508.

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)