

Exploring Early Childhood

The following contains a description of the course we offer to students at St Marys Senior High. It is intended as a guide to help you select your subjects and you should read it carefully.

Please note:

- The details given represent the way that the course is delivered at St Marys Senior High and may involve different choices from the way other schools might operate the same course.
- Classes can only be formed where sufficient students select the particular course. The fact that a course is listed here is not a commitment to run the course in a particular year.
- The arrangements for particular courses are subject to change for a variety of reasons.

Exploring Early Childhood - Course Details

Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Endorsed Course – Syllabus is set by BOSTES but examined at the school, marks do not count towards an ATAR	N – Does not count towards an ATAR	TAS/PDHPE

This subject is a 2 Unit, 1 Year course.

What will I be doing in this course?

Exploring Early Childhood aims to provide students with an overview of the experiences of children in the early childhood years. This course explores child growth and development from conception through to preschool years. It involves practical experiences to enable students to develop confidence in observing, understanding and relating to young children.

Core Strands:

- Pregnancy and Childbirth – Conception, pregnancy tests, the developing baby, preparing for birth, labour, birth and postnatal issues.
- Child Growth and Development – physical growth, fine and gross motor development, social-emotional development, cognitive and language development and the importance of families in growth and development.
- Promoting Positive Behaviour – realistic expectations, appropriate behaviour, positive strategies, behaviour management independence and legal implications.

Options Modules:

- Play and the Developing Child – play experiences, development of play, learning through play, play materials, investigating play, issues related to play and influences on play.
- Child Health and Safety – safety in the home, hygiene, toys and play equipment, outdoor safety, first aid and road safety.
- Food and Nutrition – breastfeeding, bottle feeding, weaning, first foods and food for toddlers and older children.
- Young Children and Media – history, viewing habits, positive aspects of multimedia, issues about television and computers as leisure activities and educational multi-media.
- Children's Literature – babies, toddlers and books, pre-schoolers and books, choosing picture books, poetry for children and non-fiction books.
- Young Children with Special Needs – diversity, special needs, preschool, school and families.

What will students will be able to do at the end of this course?

Students will develop:

- Knowledge and understanding about the physical, social-emotional, behavioural, cognitive and language development of young children.
- Knowledge and understanding about the environmental factors that have an impact upon young children's growth and development.
- Knowledge and understanding about the development and maintenance of positive behaviours and relationships with young children.
- Skills in communication and interaction.
- Skills in research and analysis.
- Skills in decision making and evaluation.
- Respect for the individuality and uniqueness of young children and their families.
- An appreciation of the value and importance of supportive and responsible relationships with young children.

How will this course help me in the future?

All students will interact with children in the future, as either a parent, relative, friend, carer or educator. Knowledge and understanding about childhood development of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers will enable students to support and encourage this development during these interactions.

Studying Exploring Early Childhood also offers initial learning experiences that can lead to careers in childcare, teaching, social work, nursing and counselling.