

Sub-degree Programme Course List

Programme Title:	Higher Diploma in Early Childhood Education
Programme Short Name:	HD(ECE)
Programme Code:	A2H049
Year of Entry:	2026/27

Major Course List

Course Code	Course Title	Course Synopsis / Outline / Remarks (Optional)
ECE0025	Child Development	This course utilizes a social ecological perspective as an overarching framework and introduces students to a number of theories as well as contemporary research on neurosciences and child development between 0-8 years. Major developmental milestones in the domains of physical, social and emotional, as well as cognitive and language development will be highlighted. The course places an emphasis on the whole child, directing students to appreciate how different domains of child development may affect one another. The course also emphasizes how theory and research can be used to inform teaching practices. Students will be introduced to common methods of assessment and observation. Students will be encouraged to apply theory and research on child development and cognitive neuroscience, paying particular attention to addressing diversity and ensuring inclusivity, factors that influence the developing brain so as to meet the learning needs of all children and provide recommendations for individualised instruction.
ECE0166	Children's Health and Care	In this course, students will be introduced to the concepts and practices of health education, safety and care in early childhood settings. Emphasis is given to the ways of organizing a caring, safe and secure environment for children aged 0-6. Students will be involved in planning daily routines and provided with an overview of methods used to assess and monitor the hygiene and safety conditions of early childhood settings. Students also learn how to create a well-planned and balanced menu to meet the needs of children.
ECE0303	Professional Growth of Early Childhood Educators	The course provides an overview of the various socio-cultural, historical forces that affect the development of early childhood education in Hong Kong. By learning the concept of constructivism, students will understand contemporary approaches in learning and teaching and be able to apply it in pre-school classroom settings. They will

		also get to explore the concept of professionalism in teaching as well as acquire a thorough understanding of the professional ethics and conduct expected of teachers. This concept aims to help students understand their professional roles and establish their commitment to the field of early childhood education and the community at large.
ECE0294	Preschool Management and Parent Involvement: Ethics and Practice	The course provides a foundation in theory and practice in educational management and teacher leadership, and their relevance and applications to preschools in the local and non-local contexts. The course also provides students with the knowledge of how an early childhood education entity operates in terms of organizational structure and the duties and responsibilities of different roles involved, as well as an understanding of the professional ethics and conduct of school leaders and teachers. Students are guided to become conversant with the concepts of school-based quality assurance in the early childhood settings, demonstrate critical thinking and reflections for assessing the effectiveness of the school practices and initiate improvement measures for sustainable development. In addition, this course explores the importance of parental involvement in fostering home-school-community collaboration and its corresponding leadership strategies.
ECE0213	Understanding the Diverse Needs of Young Children	This course highlights the importance of early intervention through providing students with an overview of children with diverse needs. Students will be equipped with fundamental knowledge, theories and techniques to develop teaching strategies for educating children with diverse needs. The role of early childhood practitioners in identification, assessing and providing early intervention for children with diverse needs in various early childhood settings will be discussed.
ECE0218	Social Environment for Children with Diverse Needs	This course provides students with an overview of the services and programmes provided for young children with diverse needs (e.g. Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactive Disorder, Physical impairment, Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment, Specific Learning Difficulties, Non-Chinese Speaking etc.) in the early childhood settings in Hong Kong. Students will also acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to work with colleagues, parents and other professionals, and be able to utilize various services and resources in the community to cater for young children with diverse needs.
ECE0167	Promoting Children's Emotional and Social Well-being	This course incorporates concepts, personal values, skills and parental involvement in relation to promoting the emotional and social well-being of children aged 0-5 (infants, toddlers and preschoolers). The focus is to develop students' capacity in planning activities and in creating a stimulating environment through which children's emotional and social well-being are effectively promoted.

		Students are set to acquire the essential knowledge and practical skills through actively participating in various learning experiences.
ECE0207	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood	The course introduces fundamental concepts and issues related to early literacy development, instruction and assessment of young children in preschools settings aged 0-8. It emphasizes students' active participation in meaningful and critical discussion about the application of theoretical knowledge for the design of instructional activities in preschool settings, and strategies to promote home-school collaboration and parental involvement to support young children's language and literacy learning and development.

Education Studies Course List

Course Code	Course Title	Course Synopsis / Outline / Remarks (Optional)
ECE0295	Designing and Developing an Integrated Play-based Curriculum	This course provides an overview of the key components in early childhood curriculum development, in particular the aims and objectives, content areas, implementation and evaluation. Special focus will be given to current practices in early childhood integrated play-based curriculum design and implementation methods. Workshops will provide students with opportunities for putting theory into practice with a focus on the practice of integrated play-based curriculum planning for a group of young children in local early childhood settings. Students will identify objectives, schedule a programme for 1 day, design activities, as well as evaluate experiences and outcomes in accordance with knowledge about planning appropriate learning activities for young children.
ECE0211	Scientific and Mathematical Explorations for Young Children	The course aims to help students understand the value of scientific and mathematical explorations for children from birth to eight. It also aims to help students acquire the essential skills of planning, implementing and evaluating scientific and mathematical learning activities through play, and through integrated curriculum.
ECE0210	Curriculum for Children with Diverse Needs I	The course enables students to develop skills and strategies to design and implement an Individualized Education Programme (IEP) for young children with diverse needs. Students will acquire the methods to assess and evaluate young children with diverse needs. Students will also be able to know the intervention strategies and appropriate assessments to cater the diverse needs of a young child.
ECE0216	Curriculum for Children with Diverse Needs II	This course is an extension of the course, Programme & Curriculum for Children with Diverse Needs I. It provides an in-depth study of the theories and applications in curriculum planning for young children with diverse needs. It further develops students' skills in the designing and implementation of programmes developmentally appropriate for the young children with diverse needs, and, to expand students' knowledge in the recent training trends and approaches for the young children with diverse needs.
ECE0217	Curriculum Practice for Children with Diverse Needs	This course aims to provide students with practical knowledge on the segregated and integrated education environment and assessment mechanism for young children with diverse needs. Students will have the opportunity to apply the use of practical knowledge and skills in educating young children with diverse needs.
ECE0296	Physical Fitness and Play	This course aims to enhance students' understanding of using the key theoretical knowledge and pedagogical skills of fitness, movement, and play in designing and delivering physical education (PE) activities for pre-school children. It prepares students to develop and implement a creative curriculum promoting young children's competence in fundamental movement skills, physical fitness, and

		physically active lifestyles. The course will introduce the key principles, concepts, and theories of using play as the teaching medium, and the benefits of implementing playful PE activities in the pre-school settings. Throughout the course, students will be given opportunities to design PE lesson plans with the emphasis of play. They are expected to be able to design and demonstrate fitness activities that are not only fun but also developmentmentally appropriate for young children.
ECE0297	Creative Arts Experience for Young Children	This foundation course aims to equip students with the basic subject knowledge, pedagogical content, skills and techniques about visual arts and music for teaching children aged 0-8. Students will apply what they have learned in the course to design active and playful visual arts / music classroom learning activities that enhance children's creativity, self-expression, and aesthetic appreciation. The course will also nurture students' creativity to explore and experience new ideas, inspiration, and enhance professionalism.

Electives Course List

Course Code	Course Title	Course Synopsis / Outline / Remarks (Optional)
INT1123	Information Technology in the Society and Daily Lives	This course is designed to provide students with foundation knowledge on the use of appropriate IT tools, multimedia and emerging technologies, and a critical understanding of the application of information and communication technology to the solution of authentic problems and the persuasive impact on everyday life, culture and society. Emerging technologies have profoundly changed childhood development and brought opportunities and challenges for learning. It is important to create a balanced life with technology from early childhood.
ECE0275	Applied Drama for Personal and Social Transformation	Applied drama is widely considered as an effective medium for promoting personal growth and social transformation. This course aims to develop the students' basic knowledge, skills and attitude for using applied drama in various social settings. In this course, various approaches and models of applied drama will be introduced. Students will be exposed to a wide range of theatre games, drama conventions and related drama and non-drama facilitation strategies and techniques through experiential drama workshops, group work and other interactive teaching approaches. After finishing the course, students will be capable to plan and implement drama workshops on particular topics and themes relating to personal growth and social transformation.
ECE0274	Teaching Putonghua in the Early Years	本單元旨在介紹普通話學習的內容及日常語言學習的策略。內容包括了解現今教育機構教授普通話的情形，探討學習者學習普通話的目標，教學方法，教材的選擇和設計，普通話學習活動的設計，以及家長與教育機構的合作。課堂以講授、討論、工作坊、遊戲、示範教學、專題講座等形式進行，讓學員能透過多元化的教學模式來學習如何設計和評估日常普通話教學活動。
ECE0273	Teaching English Language in the Early Years	This course aims at equipping students with basic understanding of concepts of how young children learn English as an additional language in their early years. Students are guided to examine the contextual factors that facilitate or constraint children in learning English. With the understanding gained, students will learn to evaluate, identify and design quality language learning materials and resources that facilitate age-appropriate learning in the early years both at home and at school.
ECE0286	Exploring STEM in Everyday Life	This course aims to help students understand the nature and significance of STEM. It stimulates students' curiosity in exploring STEM elements in their daily lives. Students will be introduced to the knowledge of STEM through an inquiry-based and hands-on learning approach.

ECE2088	Practical Capstone Project in Action	The course introduces fundamental concepts to develop teachers as learners, researchers, inquirers and knowledge creators in education and their related disciplines. It puts an emphasis on students' active participation in conducting a research-based or an inquiry-based project, with a practical aim to create a teaching material/aid for educational needs in the field of early childhood education or other stages of education.
ECE0289	Becoming Global Citizens through Experiential Learning	This course aims to develop students' understanding of global citizenship and cultural diversity, and interconnectedness through the lens of Experiential Learning Theory. By engaging in well-planned and supervised experiential learning activities overseas, students will have the opportunity to direct experience, examine, reflect, and conceptualize contemporary global issues. This experiential approach fosters students' abilities to evaluate different perspectives and multi-faced solutions, particularly in the field of education. Students will critically reflect on their role in fostering global citizenship to address societal needs. Engaging in reflective discussions and collaborative activities during the study tour will enhance students' critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills.
ECE0290	Summer Fun Fair	The Summer Fun Fair allows students to translate their knowledge and skills in early childhood education they have obtained under the programme, into actual practices. Through various playful and innovative activities targeting children, students gain first handed experiences in delivering child-centred activities and developing relevant generic skills, including collaboration, leadership, and problem-solving. One significant characteristic of these activities is that they are all initiated, designed, and implemented by students themselves based on what they have learned prior to and within this course, which later will be tested in the community through collaboration with external parties.
ECE0291	Project in Action Research	This course aims to develop teachers as learners and researchers in ECE. It introduces basic knowledge and principles of action research methods for students to conduct research in education and consider the ethical issues in the research process. Topics will include recognising the value of educational research, understanding the steps involved in action research, the search of relevant literature, identifying research topic and questions, collecting data, proposal and research report writing. Students will apply the knowledge to prepare and conduct a mini action research in chosen areas.