



BA (Hons) Top-Up Early Childhood & Education

(Integrated Working with Families and Children)

Take your professional learning to the next level

This one-year degree is designed for those who have already completed a Foundation Degree in Early Years or a related field and want to progress to honours level.

The course deepens your understanding of early childhood through relational and leadership theory — equipping you to make a greater impact in your setting and beyond. You'll study within Pen Green's nationally recognised research and training community, bringing together reflective practice, critical enquiry, and professional growth.

Take your learning further — and lead with confidence

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Why choose this course?

- Progress to honours level — build on your Foundation Degree and complete your BA (Hons) in one year.
- Flexible learning — choose between intensive study blocks at Pen Green or online study blocks.
- Designed for practitioners — continue working while you study, applying new insights directly to your setting.
- Develop your leadership voice — explore how to lead practice and influence change across early childhood services.

Course structure

The Top-Up is a flexible, full-time programme completed over one year, with 12 days of face-to-face teaching (or equivalent online sessions).

This approach allows you to focus fully during study blocks, while maintaining work commitments. The programme integrates theory and practice through reflective enquiry, leadership development, and a final dissertation on your chosen specialism.

What you'll study

Modules include:

- Growing Together – Exploring children's emotional worlds
- Leaderful Practice - A reflection on your leaderful actions during a time of change.
- Dissertation on a professional area of interest

Who is it for?

For early years practitioners who have:

- A Foundation Degree in Early Years (or related subject)
- At least two years' experience working with children and families
- A desire to progress their professional and academic practice

Entry requirements

- Foundation Degree in Early Years (or related field)
- Minimum of two years' experience in an early years setting
- Interview and discussion

How to apply

Applications should be made directly to Pen Green.

Scan the QR code below to go directly to our website for an application form



Or contact us with any enquiries

01536 443435

enquiries@pengreen.org