



Pen Green

Research, Development and Training Base



Further Education, Degree Programmes and Teacher Training

For early years practitioners at every stage of their professional journey

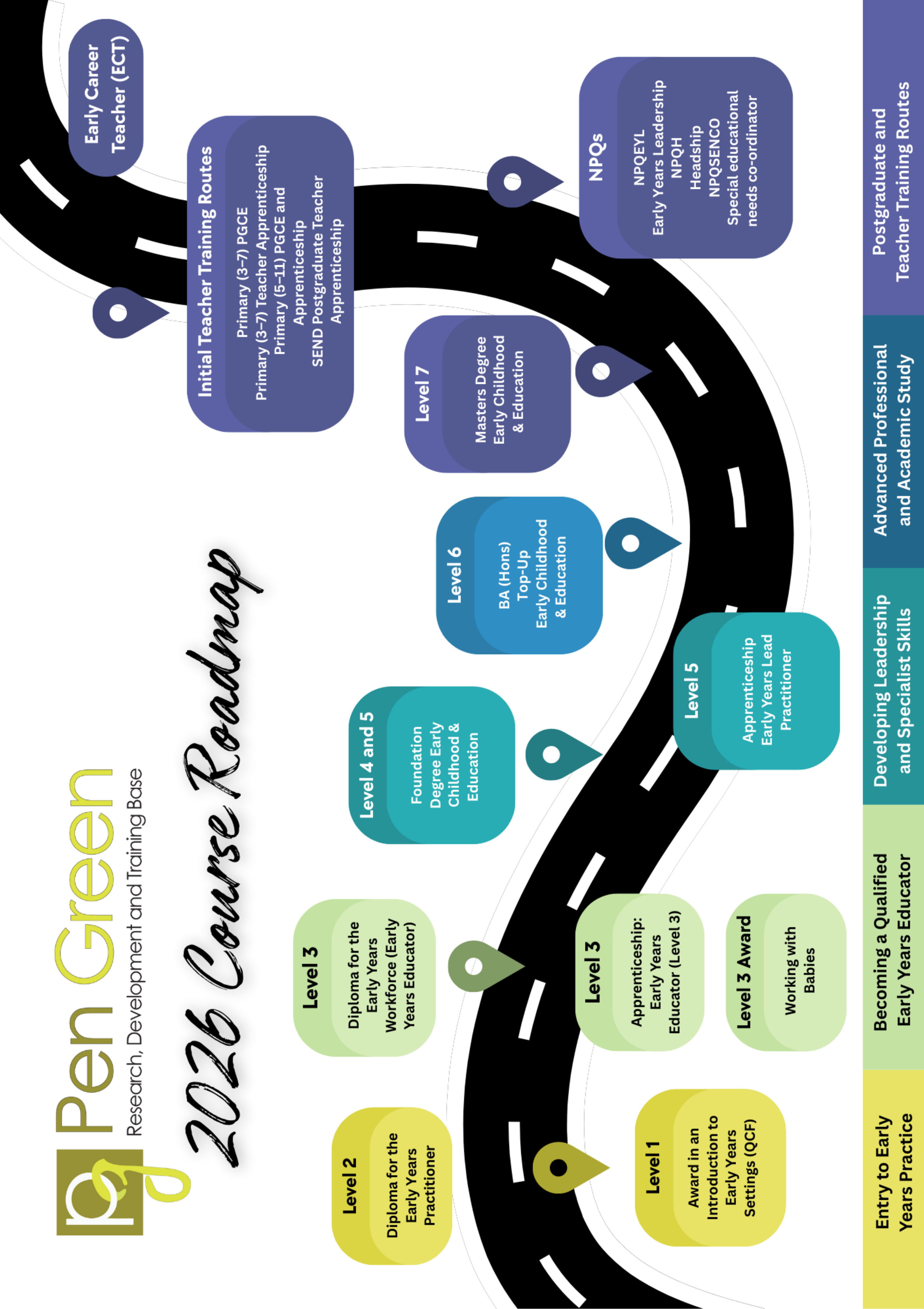
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO EXPLORE PROGRAMMES
AND OPEN EVENTS



enquiries@pengreen.org



2026 Course Roadmap



Who we are

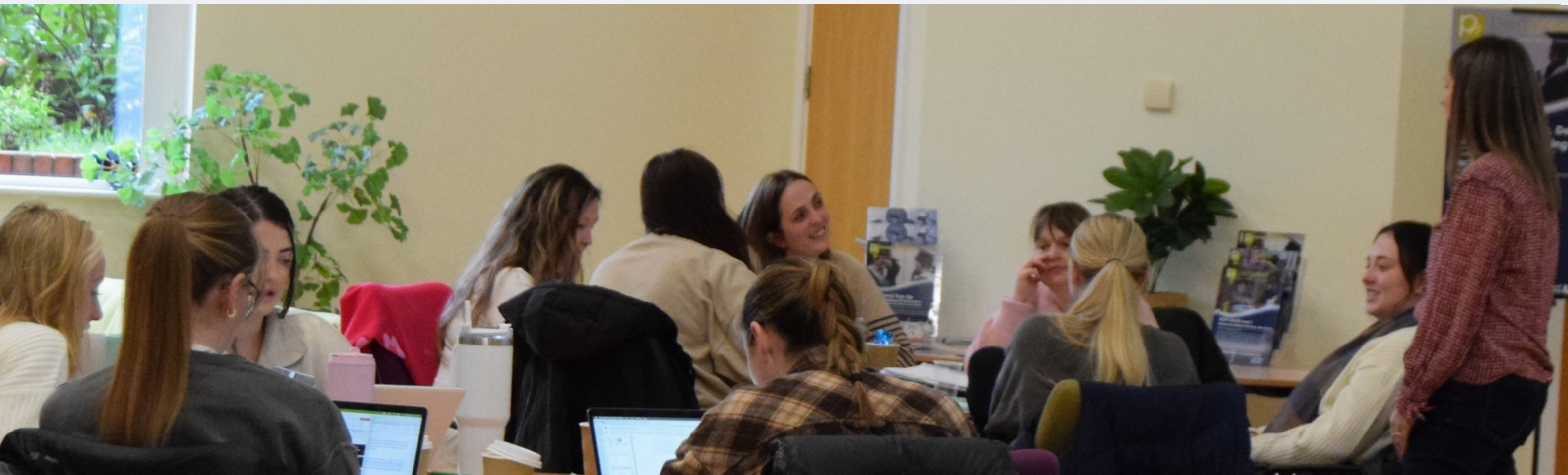
The Pen Green Research, Training and Development Base is a nationally and internationally recognised centre for professional learning, research and innovation in early childhood education.

Based within an Outstanding nursery school and early years centre, the Research Base forms part of the **Pen Green Centre for Children and Families** in Corby, Northamptonshire (UK). Pen Green is widely known for its integrated, relationship-centred approach to early education, family support and community engagement, and is frequently cited as a model of best practice.

The Research Base plays a distinctive role within Pen Green. It:

- Delivers **accredited training and higher education programmes**
- Supports **practice-based and practitioner-led research**
- Develops and disseminates **innovative approaches** to early years education
- Works in close collaboration with **universities, practitioners, local authorities and national bodies**

Our work is grounded in a belief that high-quality early childhood education depends on reflective, research-informed practitioners who understand children's learning as relational, cultural and contextual.



Research-led early years education, rooted in practice

Why Study with Pen Green?

Studying at the Pen Green Research, Training and Development Base offers a distinctive learning experience rooted in real practice, critical reflection and research.

A National and International Reputation

Pen Green is renowned for its pioneering work in early childhood education. Its approaches to pedagogy, family engagement and professional learning have influenced policy and practice across the UK and beyond.

Practice-Based Learning

Learning at Pen Green is deeply connected to practice. Students are encouraged to draw directly on their professional experiences, enabling theory to be explored, questioned and applied in meaningful ways.

Research-Informed and Research-Active

Students engage with contemporary research and are supported to develop their own practitioner research skills. Key areas include:

- Early childhood development
- Relationships and pedagogy
- Family and community engagement
- Social justice and inclusion

Professional Growth and Leadership

Our programmes support educators, family workers and leaders to deepen their knowledge, strengthen reflective practice and develop confidence as advocates for children and families.

“Pen Green supported me to find my professional voice and to see myself as a leader in early childhood education.”

For enquiries and support with the application process,
please contact us at studentsupport@pengreen.org

Our Offer

Further Education

- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma for Working in the Early Years Sector (Early Years Educator)
- Early Years Educator Level 3 Apprenticeship
- Early Years Lead Practitioner Level 5 Apprenticeship

Degree Programmes

- **Foundation Degree (Arts) Early Childhood & Education**
(Integrated Working with Families and Children)
- **BA (Hons) Top-Up – Early Childhood and Education**
(Integrated Working with Families and Children)
- **Master's Degree – Early Childhood and Education**
(Integrated Working with Families and Children)

Teacher Training Routes

- Primary (3–7) PGCE
- Primary (3–7) Teacher Apprenticeship
- **New in 2026:** Primary (5–11) PGCE and Apprenticeship
- **New in 2026:** SEND Postgraduate Teacher Apprenticeship

Postgraduate Professional and Leadership Development

- Early Career Teacher (ECT) Framework – Early Years
- National Professional Qualification (NPQ) in Early Years Leadership



Find out more on
all courses



All programmes are designed to support progression, professional confidence and leadership within early childhood education and related fields.

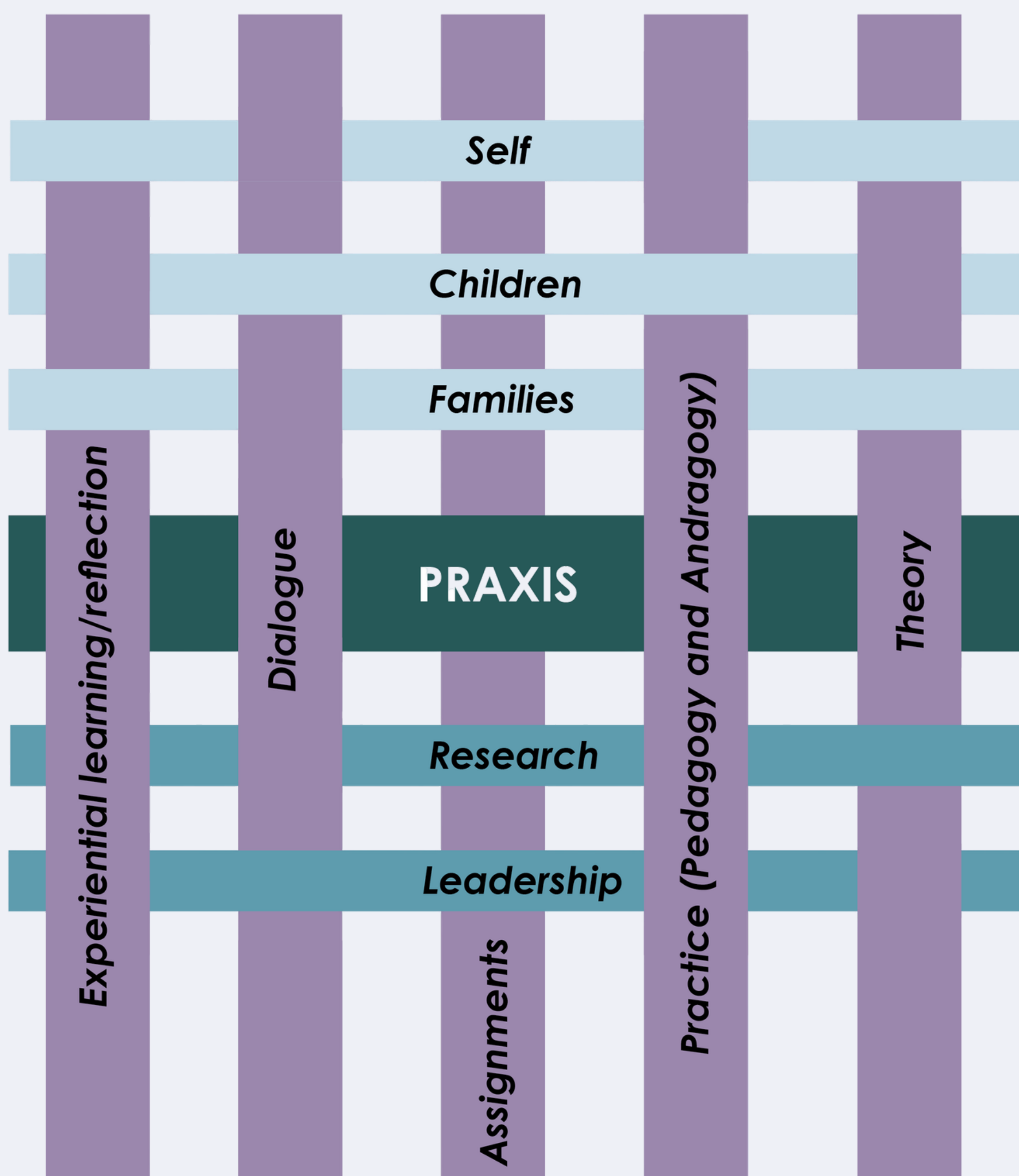


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Course Content

All of our courses share a set of core ideas that run right through everything you'll study. These ideas shape every module and include reflection, conversation and shared thinking, understanding how people learn (both children and adults), and using theory in meaningful ways.



At the heart of it all is praxis – simply put, this is about connecting learning with real life. It's about making sense of your day-to-day practice, using theory to understand what's happening, and developing the confidence to reflect on your work and yourself as a practitioner.

Learning that starts with practice, deepens through reflection, and shapes confident early years professionals.

Learning that fits real lives

At Pen Green, our courses are designed around the realities of working in early years. Most of our learners are balancing busy roles, family life and professional responsibilities alongside study. That's why we've developed a way of learning that gives you time, space and support—without adding unnecessary pressure.

Rather than fitting learning around traditional academic timetables, we structure our programmes to work with your life, not against it. This approach allows you to fully engage with your studies, while minimising disruption to the children, families and teams you work with.



At Pen Green, our degree courses are taught in a different way. Instead of weekly evening lectures or regular study days, learning happens through study blocks. These are intensive weeks of study that take place two or three times a year, depending on the course.

Study blocks offer protected time to focus fully on learning. They are carefully planned to support adult learners, while keeping disruption to workplaces and family life to a minimum. Employers often tell us this approach works well, as it avoids the ongoing impact of weekly release. Learners with families also value having dedicated study time, supported by those around them.

Learning during the week is active and collaborative. Tutors act as facilitators, offering starting points and guiding small group work. You will explore theories, ideas and concepts together, linking them directly to your own real-life practice. Rather than long lectures, the focus is on discussion, shared thinking and making sense of complex ideas in meaningful ways.

“From the first study block, I felt held, supported and able to learn.”



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