



Student Stories



This course is engaging, thought-provoking, and thoroughly enjoyable, with relevant material that is up-to-date and applicable to practise. The lecturers are

friendly, vastly experienced, and incredibly inspiring. It's one of the best things I have ever done!

Rebecca Blitger

Work Placement

Our programme aims to develop well-informed, articulate professionals who are passionate about and hold a personal stance on key issues in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC).

Prepare for the working world by spending 800 hours on placement throughout your course. Each week 2 days will be spent working within an early years setting.

Contact us:




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Nursing Health Sciences and Social Care

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Why study Early Childhood Education and Care at GMIT Mayo?

- GMIT Mayo is located in Castlebar which is a warm and vibrant town. It is small enough to find your way around, but large enough to offer a wide range of activities and entertainment for students.
- The campus itself has state of the art lecture theatres, video conferencing suites, IT labs with the latest technology and a recreation and early childhood play area for our early childhood education and care students.
- Clubs and societies are at the heart of campus life. From surfing to soccer, yoga to archery, mountaineering to martial arts you are guaranteed to find the ideal activity to help you strike the balance with the academic side of college life.
- The cost of renting accommodation in Castlebar is lower than many college towns.
- Students are close enough to nearby Westport (16kms away) to enjoy all the tourist attractions and social life it offers.
- We have close ties with local and national employers and this link can often lead to employment upon graduation.



-  GMIT Mayo
-  @GMITMayoCampus
-  GMIT Channel

www.gmit.ie/mayo

Early Childhood Education and Care

Course	Level	Duration	CAO Code	Campus
BA in Early Childhood Education and Care	7	3 years	GA871	Mayo

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What will I study?

Subjects include:

- Play – Indoors and Outdoors
- Psychology
- Research with Children
- Family Centred Support and Practices
- Diversity and Equality

Students also undertake a weekly 12 hour placement in an Early Years Setting.

See www.gmit.ie for more

What is Early Childhood Education and Care?

The BA in Early Childhood Education and Care focuses on the education and care of children from birth to six years.

It is designed to provide learners with the skills and competencies required for autonomous working practice in Early Childhood Education and Care.

The course is based on a child-led transformational philosophy which enables students to build authentic reciprocal relationships with children, parents, colleagues, the community and other professionals.

This degree is based on the contemporary principles of best practice as determined by Siolta, The National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education (2006) and Aistear, The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework (2009).



Career Opportunities

The BA in Early Childhood Education and Care will be recognised for the higher capitation of the Early Childhood Care and Education programme (free pre-school year) under the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) list of recognised qualifications.

Career opportunities include:

- Educator in an Early Years setting
- Manager in an Early Years setting
- Working with children with disabilities
- Special Educational Needs Assistant
- Tutor for QQI level 5 and 6 in Early Childhood Education and Care



Garda Vetting

It is a requirement that all students are Garda Vetted for this programme by GMIT on commencement of their studies.

Further Study

Following successful completion of the Level 8 in Early Childhood Education and Care, graduates can undertake a variety of career paths in the education, health and social care fields. There is a current need for well-trained graduates who can quickly move up to more senior roles in early childhood education and care settings.

Some students may go on to specialise in a particular area such as Post Graduate level in Special Educational Needs or Play Therapy; others may take up advisory posts or mentoring roles in government departments.

Students may continue their professional studies to Masters Level including Leadership in Early Childhood Education, Primary Education, Psychology and Play Therapy.

