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**Check for the latest information or
download the application form.**



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**Early Learning &
Child Care
Program**

Early Learning Orientation (Level 1)

Early Learning Certificate (Level 2)

Early Learning Diploma (Level 3)



The Blue Quills ECD program has evolved from best evidence in contemporary research and from the input of child care providers in First Nations communities surrounding Blue Quills First Nations College. With the success stories and challenges experienced by the people doing this very important work, the program was designed and enhanced, not only to meet the needs of child care workers in daycares but will allow students to transfer their skills to different child care settings.

The Program Components address; child development issues, planning and programming, relationships, practicum experience, and related course work in research, writing skills, and administration with a strong focus on Cree immersion methodologies. This design provides access to traditional Indigenous knowledge and childcare practices.

The Home Visitation Component provides necessary training in bridging the gap between child care agencies and families. Level 3 students will develop skills in working with families in the areas of child development, health issues, early literacy, connecting families to community resources and being an advocate on the families' behalf.

A critical feature includes research in Brain Development and has opened up views for practical strategies for children experiencing difficulties in healthy development, behavior management and trauma recovery. Child development concepts are explored in both western and Indigenous terms.

Traditional indigenous child care practices are central to the program. Innovative tools and male and female elder teachings are utilized to develop effective indigenous language resources whether you are a fluent speaker of indigenous languages or not.

Employment opportunities:

- Daycares Centres
- Home Visitation Programs
- K4 Playschool Programs
- Group Homes
- Headstart Programs
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Afternoon Programs
- Kindergarten Programs

Early Learning and Child Care Program cont....

Students are required to complete the following number of hours in each of the following areas.

- **Child development—approximately 120 hours**
Courses in this area will address theories of child development, development of the child socially, intellectually, physically, and emotionally with a focus on developing resources to address these various developmental needs. In addition to language development, second language acquisition will also be addressed. The varying developmental needs of infants and toddlers will also be addressed in particular; health, safety and nutritional needs of these two stages. Students will develop skills in observing and recording child behavior.
- **Programming courses—145 hours**
Courses in this area will cover planning and development of preschool programs. Students will be exposed to and experience creating resources to complement their preschool curriculums. Students will also explore how they can facilitate learning through playful activities. Traditional child-rearing knowledge will also be woven throughout the courses as well as given special emphasis.
- **Relationship courses—60 hours**
Courses in this area will give students an opportunity to explore and improve on their interpersonal communication skills. Students will explore developmental needs with special focus on looking at how child's self-esteem can be supported and nurtured. Students will also touch on family dynamics and how this can relate to the development of emotional maturity and self-esteem within the child. Course in this area is experiential.
- **Practicum courses—400 hours**
Courses in this area allow students the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned within the classroom as well as learning from the experience of their practicum supervisor. In addition, students will have the opportunity to discuss difficulties and successes in dealing with specific issues related to the Early Childhood field: such as; behavior management and regulations.
- **Related courses—45 hours**
Students will have the opportunity to focus on Indigenous languages and English grammar.

