

- Education / Child development

Importance of early childhood education

The Star Malaysia · 15 Apr 2021 · 9 · For more details, look out for the advertisement in this StarSpecial.

EARLY childhood education plays an important role in the physical and mental development of children. With effective exposure and proper guidance, a child may develop to his or her full potential and have a bright future.



According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), early childhood care and education is more than preparation for primary school.

It aims at the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and well-being. It has the possibility to nurture caring, capable and responsible future citizens.

Unesco's approach is reinforced in the Education 2030 agenda and in particular target 4.2 of Sustainable Development Goal 4 which aims to "by 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education".

Supporting the agenda, Diploma in Early Childhood Education offered at MSU College is specifically designed for those who are passionate about teaching children and ensure they are equipped with the intellectual building blocks necessary for future success.

With at least three credits in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or recognised certificates, students can expect a conducive learning environment and high-calibre lecturers who have years of experience in the field.

The programme provides quality education in children's early development, producing future educators capable of effective interaction, engagement, and management of children.

Specific emphasis is given on teaching and learning theories, pedagogical skills, curriculum content, children development and psychology, child-learning assessment, pre-school centre management, safety and nutrition aspects of children, as well as spiritual and moral development of children.

And in-line with MSU College's aspiration to produce a balanced, holistic and well-rounded graduate, Graduate Employability Skills (GEMs) and Personal Enrichment Competency (PEC) programmes are also embedded into student learning experience as part of the initiatives to further enhance their soft skills and ensure they are competent in the job market.

Upon completing the diploma, graduates may continue to pursue a Bachelor in Early Childhood Education or other programmes at Management and Science University (MSU) through its School of Education and Social Sciences with the option of credit transfer.

Here are some career prospects in early childhood education for graduates to explore – pre-school teacher, childcare worker, social worker, early childhood programme officer and many more.

■