### Learning Outcomes

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<th>The student should be able to</th>
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| **1** Understand the role of play in child development, including the emotional, social and cognitive development of the child | 1.1 Describe the key elements of at least two cognitive development theories to reflect play in childhood  
1.2 Explain the role of play in child development in relation to their social, emotional and cognitive development  
1.3 Evaluate the influence of cognitive development theories on the role of play in child learning and behaviour |
| **2** Understand the importance of play for child development | 2.1 Discuss the relationship between imagination and creativity in play  
2.2 Examine the therapeutic value of play  
2.3 Evaluate the role of the adult in effective play  
2.4 Explain areas of play that support development of motor skills |

### Assessment Methodology

A 2000–2500 word essay or case study.

### Grading of this Unit

The following grade descriptors will be applied to the assessment of this unit:

1. **Understanding of the Subject**
2. **Application of Knowledge**
3. **Communication and Presentation**
4. **Quality**

Please refer to the QAA Grade Descriptors for detail of the components of each descriptor.
Assessment criterion 1.1

Learners should examine the at least two cognitive development theories (e.g. the work of Vygotsky and Piaget) and describe the key elements of the theories in relation to play.

Assessment criterion 1.3

Learners should examine and evaluate the impact and influence that cognitive development theories have had on how we understand the role play in relation to a child’s learning and behaviour.

Assessment criteria 2.1

The development of play through the intertwined relationship between imagination and creativity could be discussed, such as in transformative play.

Assessment criteria 2.2

The learner should examine why play therapy is used, and reflect on the value of therapeutic play.

Assessment criteria 2.3

Learners should focus on the term ‘effective play’, and examine if an adult has a role to play in this – to what extent, and why. In their evaluation, learners could examine the differences between supporting/scaffolding play and controlling/determining play.