Subject Profile: Childhood and Youth Studies  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
Carleton University

Description of program/degrees offered

Child Studies is an interdisciplinary program in the social sciences and humanities. Carleton University is among the few universities in Ontario offering advanced education in critical childhood and youth studies.

Teaching and research in the field of Child Studies draws on many disciplines and methodologies and brings a critical lens to the lived experiences of children and youth in historical and contemporary national and global contexts.

Learning outcomes

| Identify and evaluate a variety of disciplinary perspectives on the study of children and childhood. |
| Interrogate normative assumptions about children and childhood. |
| Evaluate how societal structures of power, privilege, and oppression shape children’s identities. |
| Demonstrate an awareness of children’s multi-dimensional relationships in their lived experiences. |
| Communicate knowledge to multiple audiences in an accessible and engaging format. |

Degree programs

- General BA in Child Studies
- Honours BA with preparation for graduate study in: sociology, policy, law, anthropology, child studies or family studies, social work, psychology, or education

Related programs/areas of cooperation

- Undergraduate and graduate studies in Indigenous Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, Disability Studies, History, Sociology, and Anthropology.

Language emphasis and limitations (including translations)

- English
Geographical coverage

Collect material from Canada and the world.

Material formats

Books (including children’s literature), journals, reprints, dissertations/theses, maps, and government documents, in print, online, digital, visual and microform formats.

Subject coverage

Select material of an acceptable academic/scholarly or professional standard from academic/university presses, or those publications from research institutions, associations, organizations, federal and provincial governments, agencies and intergovernmental international organizations from the fields listed below.

In addition, select materials which originate from Indigenous communities and include oral histories as well as local documents detailing contemporary concerns.

1. Child activism and rights; care services and welfare; plus social policies related to child care, the family, and women; also include education, child rights, and reconciliation. Material for these subjects should be from a historical, theoretical, or empirical perspective. Also includes cross-cultural comparisons.

2. Critical perspectives on childhood and youth including: development psychology: critical perspectives of psychology: theoretical and empirical aspects of interrelationships among the physical, mental, social, cultural, and emotional aspects of child development and well being incorporating roles of parents, teachers, siblings, peers, and child care practices.

3. Children’s literature, particularly picture books, graphic novels, children’s and young adult fiction, and non-fiction books that address issues of identity, agency, and children’s rights.

4. Cultural studies of childhood, including work on children’s and youth’s cultural artifacts, children’s media and literature, myths and discourses around the notion of childhood and youth in relation to intersectional identities such as socioeconomic status, race, gender, sexuality, migration status, ability, and disability.

5. Indigenous ways of knowing and being, childhood and youth in indigenous context, working with and in communities.

6. Research methods: interdisciplinary, innovative, emerging approaches to knowledge production in relation to the study of childhood and youth, including qualitative research such as ethnographic studies, oral history, and archival research, participatory action research, decolonizing research methodologies, community-engaged research, narrative inquiry, visual research. Interdisciplinary approaches to childhood in Canada including constructions and deconstructions of society, social policy, family and education, histories of childhood and youth in Canadian contexts.

Material to be excluded

Popular how-to material, K to 12 material related to the practice of teaching.
Martha Attridge Bufton
Interdisciplinary Studies Librarian
July 2019
Appendix A: List of core peer-reviewed journals

- Journal of Childhood Studies
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Childhood
- Children's Legal Rights Journal
- Jeunesse: Young People, Texts, Cultures
- Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth
- Journal of Adolescent Research
- Childhood in Africa
- Children & Society
- Children's Geographies
- Children's Literature
- Girlhood Studies
- Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education
- Global Studies of Childhood
- Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power
- International Journal of Children's Rights
- International Journal of Inclusive Education
- International Journal of Law and the Family
- Journal of LGBT Youth
- Journal of Language and Politics
- Journal of Disability Studies in Education
- Red Feather Journal: Children in Popular Culture
- Social Identity
- Social Problems
- The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science
Appendix B
Comparator programs

Ryerson University
Early Childhood Education

Child Studies
Concordia University

Child Studies
Mount Royal University

University of Victoria
Child and Youth Care

Mount Saint Vincent University in Nova Scotia offers a Bachelor of Arts in Child and Youth Study

Rutgers University’s Department of Childhood Studies offers a Bachelors as well as Masters and Doctoral programs in Childhood Studies

York University
Children, childhood and youth Studies in the Department of Humanities

Brock University
Child and Youth Studies Department

Youth and Children’s Studies
Wilfrid Laurier University

University of Lethbridge
Institute for Child & Youth Studies

Trent University
Child & Youth Studies

Nipissing University
Child and Family Studies