

# Contents

The author	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
Introduction	1
<b>Section 1: Early childhood context and policy</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1</b> Children and childhood: a historical perspective	7
<b>2</b> The current policy context of early years	25
<b>Section 2: Children’s development</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>3</b> Holistic development	45
<b>4</b> Children’s development	54
<b>5</b> Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage	82
<b>6</b> Factors affecting children’s learning and development	94

<b>Section 3: Applying child development in practice</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>7</b> Supporting children’s learning and development	119
<b>8</b> Observing and assessing children’s learning and development	139
<b>Section 4: Enhancing practice and understanding</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>9</b> Reflecting on children’s learning and development	157
<b>10</b> Thinking, questioning and challenging: a critical approach to the early years	171
Index	190