

Learning with The Open University

Over two million people have already chosen to study with The Open University. The wide range of courses and qualifications allows you to create a flexible programme of study to meet your own needs.

You can start with a single course in a subject of personal interest or topic that is relevant to your job and/or your career. Alternatively, you may want to start your studies with a diploma or degree in mind.

If you have an interest in learning more about children, The Open University offers:

- Degrees in childhood studies, psychology, health and social welfare and social work
- Diplomas in nursing, health and social welfare
- Foundation degree in early years
- Specialist teacher assistant certificate.

Preparing for OU study

If you have no experience of higher education, deciding to become an undergraduate student can be a big step. Our 'Openings' programme of short introductory courses, which includes *Understanding Children*, has been specially designed to give you a chance to test the water before committing yourself. These courses introduce you to the skills required for undergraduate study integrated with subject-specific materials.

Supporting you all the way

Whatever you decide to do, you can rest assured that you are never studying alone. At the start of each course you are allocated a tutor who can be contacted by post, telephone or e-mail. Your tutor provides advice and guidance throughout your studies and gives you individual feedback on your progress.

Find out more

To learn more about our courses and qualifications and to discover what it's like to be an OU student:

- visit our website at www.open.ac.uk/firststep
- call our Course Information and Advice Centre on 01908 653231
- e-mail general-enquiries@open.ac.uk or
- write to: Course Information and Advice Centre, The Open University, PO Box625, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.

The Experts...

John Oates is Senior Lecturer in Developmental Psychology in the Centre for Childhood, Development and Learning at the Open University. He chaired the production of the OU Child Development course and contributes to other psychology courses in the OU and elsewhere. His main research interest is in mother-infant relations and the development of attachment.

Lucy Rai is a lecturer in the School of Health and Social Welfare at The Open University. Her teaching and research interests include social work with children and families and also developing study skills in higher education. Lucy has also practiced as a qualified child care social worker in the West country, working in the area of child protection and in a family centre offering therapeutic support and assessment to children and their families.

Published in 2003 by the Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, to accompany *Child of our Time* (a BBC/Open University Co-production), first broadcast on BBC ONE, January 2004

Contributors: George Marsh, John Oates, Lucy Rai

Project Co-ordinator: Madelyn McAlpine

Programme Executive for The Open University: Emma De'Ath

For further copies of this publication please call 01908 653231 or e-mail general-enquiries@open.ac.uk or you can write to: The Open University, PO Box 625, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA. (Please quote reference OZECOT)

For information about Open University broadcasts and associated learning, visit our website www.open2.net

The Open University has a wide range of supporting teaching materials for sale, including self-study workbooks, videos and software. For more information go to: www.ouw.co.uk

Enquiries regarding extracts or the re-use of any information in this publication should be addressed to the Viewer and Listener Information Officer at The Open University, or e-mail OU.viewerlistener.service@bbc.co.uk

Copyright © The Open University 2004

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the copyright holders.

Edited, designed and typeset by The Open University.

Printed in the United Kingdom by City Print (Milton Keynes) Ltd

SUP 71771 8