DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL CARE

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Observing, Communicating and Engaging with Children and Young People

A 30 Masters credit level module for social workers and other professionals who need to deepen their capabilities for understanding, engaging and communicating with children and young people in complex, contested and sensitive situations.

Who is this module aimed at?

Social workers and other professionals working in early years, education, health and young people’s services are given the opportunity to further develop their understanding and capacity to work effectively with infants, children and young people. You must be in a professional role where you are regularly engaging and communicating directly with children and young people as the assignment requires reflection on, and evidence from, actual practice. Applicants may have previously undertaken child observation exercises in their qualifying training, but this module offers a much more in-depth and critical experience designed to underpin specialist practice.

What and how will I learn?

There are two key areas of focus: a) learning about children/young people, childhood and the self through observation, and b) developing capability in engagement and communication with children and young people. Each informs the other. Within lecture-based presentations you will discuss theoretical models in relation to children and their psychosocial worlds, with reference to contemporary research findings on differing aspects of child development, neurobiology and the impact on children of adverse circumstances. The six-session observational exercise at the heart of the module will encourage you to hone your observational skills and deepen your capacity to reflect on children’s subjective internal worlds, on interpersonal processes and on the connections between your own emotional worlds and your practice. You will observe a child not known to you and not receiving services or interventions from your own or a similar agency and present a written account within a seminar group.

Workshops provide the opportunity to critically consider and practise the methods and skills needed for engagement and communication with children and young people within your professional role. Lectures, seminars and directed reading will develop your capacity to read children’s non-verbal communications, and to respond creatively and flexibly according to the child’s needs, strengths and preferences.
This module will enable you to develop aspects of the Knowledge and Skills Statement from the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families. For example:

1. Relationships and effective direct work
2. Communication
3. Child Development
5. Abuse and Neglect of Children
6. Child and Family Assessment

**Teaching dates**

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<tr>
<th>University Teaching Days: 2019/20</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 8 October 2019</td>
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<td>Tuesday 29 October 2019</td>
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See our website for all CPD fee information: www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/cpd

**Applying**

Application forms are available from:
CPD Coordinator, Department of Social Work and Social Care
School of Education and Social Work, Essex House, University of Sussex
Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9QQ

Applications from those funded by a Local Authority employer must be authorised by a line manager and sent to the University via an Agency Training Manager to confirm funding. Limited agency places are available so these applicants are advised to apply early to secure a place.

Completed application forms must be received by 31 July 2019

For further information contact pqcoord@sussex.ac.uk

Visit www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/cpd for more details about modules and awards