

HSU Course Outline

Family Engagement: Understanding Family Social Work

ECE1104

6 weeks

Description

This in-depth 6-week online course presents a clear, succinct manner the knowledge and practical skills needed to engage in family social work. We want to make family social work alive and stimulating for family workers. This course can be a beginning interview course or a family course as an introductory text on basic family social work theory and practice.

Prerequisites

- none

Who Should Take This Course?

This course is designed for all lead teaching staff. It is most beneficial to Head Start teachers, teacher aides, parents, volunteers and education managers. This course will benefit all staff members who must deal with Head Start children in a classroom setting.

Objectives

- ✓ Understand the field of social work
- ✓ Define "What is Family?"
- ✓ Knowledgeable of Family systems
- ✓ Understand Family Development and the Life Cycle
- ✓ Determine Family Strengths and Resilience
- ✓ Understand Practical Aspects of Family Social Work
- ✓ Understand The Beginning Phase
- ✓ Explore Qualitative Family Assessment
- ✓ Explore Quantitative Assessment
- ✓ Set Family Systems Interventions
- ✓ Implement the Intervention Phase
- ✓ Explore Interventions at the child and parental levels
- ✓ Determine the Termination Phase

Outline

Understanding The Field of Social Work

What is Family Social Work
 Family Social Work and Family Therapy
 Realities of Family Social Work Practice
 Assumptions of Family Social Work

What is Family?

Purpose of Families

Divers Family Structures
 Defining Family
 Diversity and Families
 Family Diversity Now and Beyond
 Cultural Dimension of Families
 Beliefs about Families

Family Systems

What is Family Systems?
 Key Assumptions about Family Systems
 Family Boundaries
 Family Subsystems

Family Development and the Life Cycle

Understanding a Developmental Perspective
 Family Diversity Across the Life Cycle
 Developmental Stages
 Variations affecting the Family Life Cycle

Family Strengths and Resilience

Strengths-Based Practice
 Definition of Resilience
 Measuring Resilience
 Qualities of Resilience
 Family Resilience
 Ecological Risk and Opportunities
 Risk and Culture

Practical Aspects of Family Social Work

Referral Process

Scheduling Family Meetings
 Including Children in Family Interviews
 Handling Disruptions and Maintaining Contact
 Telephone Follow-Up
 Safety Considerations
 Building a Relationship with Families
 Orienting Family to Family Social Work
 Protecting Family Confidentiality

The Beginning Phase

Engagement, Assessment and Goal Setting
 Basic Skills Needed by Family Social Workers
 Guidelines for Effective Interviews
 Principles of Effective Communication

Core Qualities Needed by Family Social Workers

Dysfunctional Behaviors to Avoid

Qualitative Family Assessment

Introduction to Qualitative Assessment

The Context of Family Assessment

Qualitative Techniques

Visual Techniques

Special Consideration for Qualitative Assessment

Criteria for Assessing Family Functioning

Family Categories Schema

Assessing Parenting Skills

Assessing Diverse Families

Quantitative Assessment

Purposes of Quantitative Measurement

Selecting a Measurement Instrument

Qualities of a Good Instrument: Reliability and Validity

Frameworks for Incorporating Quantitative Measurement

Measurement Instruments

Using Measurement to Link Assessment and Intervention

Treatment Planning

Family Systems Interventions

Effective Assessment and Intervention

Key Strategies in Working with Strengths

Defining Problems

Strength Based Assessments

Circular Patterns

De-triangulation

Working with Involuntary Clients

Intervention with Minority Families

The Interventions at the Child and Parental Phase

Intervention Phases

Roles and Objectives of the Family Social Worker

Intervention Techniques

Crisis Intervention

A Behavioral Family Approach

Parent Skills Training

Behavior Problems and Parent-Child Conflict

Assisting Parents in Setting Rules