ONLINE STANDALONE MODULE
DIRECT WORK WITH CHILDREN

The module

The ability to understand children and young people’s experiences is crucial at both the assessment and intervention stage. Simply talking to them is neither sufficient nor effective in itself to fully grasp the ‘intentional state’ of their inner mind. Similarly, using a range of materials will not automatically open the door for them to express themselves. It will not necessarily ensure practitioners understand the child’s world. It takes skill and knowledge alongside the competent use of appropriate tools.

The Direct Work module aims to help practitioners go ‘beyond the surface’ by using a ‘mentalization’ approach throughout and the online format of the module will allow ample space for reflection and discussion amongst the student group and between students and the course tutor. Practitioners will benefit from innovative teaching methods which adhere to the Centre’s creative approach to learning, and will partake in weekly discussion forums to reflect upon what they have read, seen and heard in a particular week. A series of video lectures delivered by experienced professionals in the field of direct work will also be shared.

Studying with CCP

The Centre for Child Protection at the University of Kent is a hub of excellence and innovation in training, research and practice. The Centre supports professionals involved in safeguarding children and young people. This module provides high quality, targeted and innovative child protection learning and training designed to meet the needs of all professionals and is a rigorous academic programme with a focus on ‘real life’ application.

Duration: 10 weeks (over 20 weeks)
Cost: £895
Start date: May
Induction Day during April at University of Kent, Canterbury
(contact us for specific dates)

For organisational discounts please email j.reeves@kent.ac.uk
Testimonials:

I've been able to critically reflect and analyze my professional practice and understanding and explore gaps in my knowledge’…’I've used a range of tools provided by the university to inform my practice with social workers assessing children in need’…. ‘I now have a much better understanding of child development and factors affecting this such as disorganised attachment’.

Module outline

1) Child protection and the history of direct work
2) Theoretical concepts supporting the direct work process
3) Individual practitioner responsibility
4) Communicating with young children
5) Study Day: the use of ‘mentallisation’ in direct work
6) The impact of direct work upon the practitioner
7) Examples of directive work
8) Every child and the whole child matters
9) Direct work with older children and those in complex cases
10) Bringing direct work to a close

Assessment: 5000 word assignment and contribution to online discussion forums

Support

Students are supported by a tutor who is able to offer individual support. Contact is flexible and can be facilitated face-to-face, via email, Skype or phone.

All key texts are available via the University web based learning platform ‘Moodle’
Access to the University of Kent’s Library Services and other Student resources and support
An Induction day and a study day at the Canterbury Campus will be offered within the 10 weeks

Opportunities

- Enhance practice and skills with the support of well evidenced and research academic literature
- Exciting multi-agency learning environment
- Easy online access to academic journal articles, book chapters and e-books
- Flexibility to study around work
- Academic/career progression and CPD: 20 credits at MA level following successful assignment completion
- Video lectures from experienced practitioners covering a variety of related issues
- Engage in the Centre for Child Protection’s innovative teaching and learning methods

Contact us

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