

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Understanding Children (through observation)

A 15 credit Masters level module for social workers and other professionals who aim to further their understandings of children and young people and their emotional and social lives.

Who is this module aimed at?

This postgraduate-level module offers opportunities to social workers and other professionals working in early years, education, health and young people's services, to further develop their range of ways of understanding infants, children and young people. To undertake the module you must be in a professional role where you regularly engage and communicate directly with children and/or young people as assignments require you to apply your learning to the professional context.

Applicants may have previously undertaken child observation exercises in their qualifying training, but this module offers a 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 and childhood from a range of perspectives, and
- b) Learning about the self through observation and reflection.

Within lecture-based presentations you will discuss theoretical models in relation to children and their psychosocial world. This will include reference to contemporary research findings on differing aspects of child development, neurobiology and the impact on children of adverse circumstances.

You will consider how careful observation may enable you to make better sense of children's non-verbal communications.

The six-session observational exercise at the heart of the module will 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.

This module will enable you to develop aspects of the 'Knowledge and skills statement for approved child and family practitioners'.

**Understanding
infants, children and
young people**

**An in-depth and
critical experience
designed to underpin
specialist practice**

**Learn about
yourself through
observation and
reflection**

**Discussion of
theoretical models in
relation to
children and their
psychosocial world**

**Contemporary
research findings on
differing aspects of
child development,
neurobiology and the
impact of adverse
circumstances**



Teaching dates

University Teaching/Study Days: 2018
Tuesday 11 September
Tuesday 30 October
Tuesday 20 November
Tuesday 11 December

**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 2018

For further information contact pqcoord@sussex.ac.uk