COURSE OUTLINE

METHODS IN PARENT SUPPORT

Course Title: METHODS IN PARENT SUPPORT
Code No.: ED 404-2
Program: INFANT/TODDLER CARE AND EDUCATION
Semester: SECOND
Date: FEBRUARY 11 - MARCH 8, 1985 and MARCH 18 - APRIL 12, 1985
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New: _____ Revision: X

APPROVED: N. KOCH
Chairperson
Date: 1993 05 07
It will examine a variety of methods in offering support to parents of normal and special-needs infants and toddlers including: basic communication and attending skills; small group interaction and communication; effective group skills and group leadership. As well, the student will discuss the implications of the following: individual and cultural differences in infant-rearing; home situations affecting early development, e.g. single-parent families, socio-economic conditions, family stress, sibling relationships, adoption and self-relationships.

This is an introductory course only. If further skills in the areas of counselling and leadership are desired, studies in those specific areas must be pursued.

**COURSE GOALS:**

Upon completing this course the student will be able to:

1. discuss the importance of a good parent-staff relationship
2. describe ways to build a relationship with parents
3. discuss ways in which parents influence their children
4. discuss advantages and disadvantages of the various means of communicating with busy parents
5. evaluate the parents' position as decision-makers of:
   (1) a centre's policies
   (2) their child's care and education
6. identify a variety of situations in which parent support would be needed
7. visit and evaluate family home day care, private home day care and foster home day care settings
8. help parents plan for home care and to optimize environmental conditions for promoting infant/toddler development, and especially to assist with "special needs" children
9. organize and lead small groups

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10. recognize problems of a complexity which their skills cannot address and make appropriate referrals

11. devise and implement a Parent Group Plan

**METHODODOLOGY:**

Offered over 8 weeks in two, four-week sessions, this course will comprise some 18 hours of supervised study time and will be implemented as follows:

- in-class lectures and role-playing
- text reference and independent study and worksheets
- one 5-hour workshop using video equipment as a learning tool with emphasis on attending skills and group process.

**Project:**

A - experience with actual groups where students will utilize learned skills in facilitating parent groups and in acting in a supportive role with parents

S - observation of working "parent groups"

**REQUIRED READINGS:**


I - Factors in Working with Groups

II - How to Observe Your Group

III - How to Analyze and Evaluate Group Growth

IV - Planning Group Development

by: Dimock, Hedley G.; Guelph: Office for Educational Practice, University of Guelph, Ontario, 1983.

**RELATED READINGS:**


2. Let's Talk: An Introduction to Interpersonal Communication, 2nd
Project:

A - Parent Group Plan (see Part C: attached)

Devise and implement a plan for a series of parent group meetings.

B - Each student will observe a "parent group", in operation, twice during the first 4 weeks of this course. The groups will be assigned during class time, and the observation will take place outside of school hours (on student's own time).

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT:

1. Class participation (attendance and preparedness)  15%
2. Quiz  15%
3. Project A  40%
   Project B  10%
4. Binder  20%

100%

SYLLABUS:

All sessions based on readings in Dimock:

Week 1
- Communication Skills
- Factors in Working with Groups
- How to Observe Your Group

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J. Wood-Arbus

- Observing Groups (Practicum) Project B
  - Worksheets

Week 2
- How to Analyze and Evaluate Your Group
- Planning Group Development
- Worksheets
- Project B continued

Week 3
- Understanding and Working with Parents
- Parent Group Plans
- Worksheets
- Submit Binders

Week 4
- Planning Video Workshop (planned by students and instructor)
  - Workshop date: 5 hrs.

Week 5 (after break)

  Implementation of Parent Groups

Week 6
- Quiz
- Continuation: Group Work Practicum
- Submit Binders

Week 7
- Group Work Practicum
- Submit Binders (final mark assigned)

Week 8
- Wrap up, in-class discussions and grades assigned.

JWA:sdd