

SWK352 Children and their Issues

Level: 3

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY REGULAR SEMESTER

Synopsis:

Social work with children occupies a key part of the field. This is because (a) children have potential vulnerabilities that give rise to support and protection needs and (b) childhood is the principal time of growth and development requiring good parenting and multidisciplinary developmental input. This module provides a grounding in social work skills for working with children.

It approaches the task in three dimensions:

- (a) Principles, Law & Practice;
- (b) Protecting Vulnerable Children; and
- (c) Disruption and Distress.

Within these three dimensions, it aims to equip students with the following:

- Knowledge and skills to appraise the needs and developmental tasks of children; Develop, implement and review planned interventions to safeguard children;
- Be aware of issues around protecting vulnerable children alongside the duty to safeguard balanced against privacy; and
- Apply the strengths and empowerment perspective to practice with children.

Recent demographic changes in Singaporean family life which give rise to specific childhood needs are explored. Through an examination of statutory protections available to children in special circumstances, the course will equip students to carry out effective interventions with children. The emphasis is on the Strengths-based Approach and empowerment in the context of daily life, with the aim of improving relationships and helping children and youth to deal with crises.

This course extends basic knowledge about working with children and youth introduced in SWK291 Social Work Practice and Skills Lab 1: Working with Individuals and Families.

Topics:

- Principles of child-centric practice
- Techniques for working with children
- Single, divorced and blended families
- The statutory protective framework
- Child abuse and forensic social work
- Child welfare and out of home care
- Children beyond parental control
- Child witnesses of family violence
- Bullying

Textbooks:

Social Work Practice with Children 4th Nancy Boyd Webb Guilford Press
ISBN-13: 9781462537556

Learning Outcome:

- Appraise the needs and developmental tasks of children and youth
- Discuss the professional duty to safeguard and the client's right to privacy
- Analyse prevailing Singapore welfare models in terms of their effectiveness in meeting needs
- Demonstrate understanding of issues around the protection of children
- Apply the strengths and empowerment perspective to practice
- Assess, set goals, implement and review planned intervention to safeguard children

Assessment Strategies - Regular Semester (Evening Class):

Components	Description	Weightage Allocation (%)
Overall Continuous Assessment	PRE-CLASS QUIZ 1	5
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	35
	DISCUSSION BOARD 1	10
Overall Examinable Components	Written Exam	50
Total		100

*The information listed is subject to review and change.