

Working with Parents

Training for practitioners

Coram  Family

Skills, knowledge and dispositions



- What does someone working with parents need to be able to do?

Skills, knowledge and dispositions



- What does someone working with parents need to know?

Skills, knowledge and dispositions



- What personal qualities and attitudes are important for someone working with parents?

Parents' views

- Never say “You’re not doing it right”
- Take time – get to know the children. If our children like you, we will like you.
- Don’t compare the children unfavourably to others – say “some children do this, some children do that”
- Listen very carefully
- It’s hard when one worker leaves, but you can slowly build up trust in a new person
- Talk with us about cultural and religious issues in parenting
- Understand “everyone has a load to carry”
- Give people something for tomorrow – hope
- Make my children “one day better”
- Don’t judge
- Be patient
- Remind me of my strengths

National Occupational Standards for work with parents

National Occupational Standards

- NOS are nationally agreed statements of competence which describe what an effective and competent worker does and needs to know to deliver quality in their job

Working with Parents course

- Six Units – 21 days learning

Unit 1 – working with parents



- Underlying principles for the work

Unit 2 – Lifespan development



- Theories of human development

Unit 3 – Groupwork skills

- Theory and practice of working with groups



Unit 4 – the developing parent and the developing child



- * Parent-child relationships
(children 0 – 11)
- * Behaviour
- * Communication

Unit 5 – the developing parent and developing young person



- Teenagers – building relationships
- Changes in the parent's role
- Managing boundaries

Unit 6 – Supporting parents



- The role of the professional
- Assessment
- Planning intervention and support

Who are the students?

- * Sure Start staff
- * Youth Offending Team Parenting Workers
- * School mentors and counsellors
- * Young Parent Project Workers
- * Nursery nurses in health visiting teams
- * Staff from neighbourhood and community organisations

What the students say

- “I loved the course”
- “Caters to different learning styles”
- “A lot of theory”
- “much more than I imagined”
- “really interesting”
- “makes you feel safe and special”

What the students say about how it changed the way they worked

- “I respond more positively to parents I am working with”
- “I feel more confident in approaching parents with strategies and empowering them to take the lead”
- “I listen more because I am aware of the differences in people, culture, education, background, life issues”



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