

Problems in Attention and Behavior

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I. Course Content:

This course is intended for people who want to learn about the assessment and intervention techniques for working with children presenting mild-to-moderate problems of attention or behavioral adjustment. Objectives and methods of working with children having these difficulties, including school-based and non-school based therapeutic alternatives, will be reviewed and evaluated as to their effectiveness.

II. Format:

This course is organized around a learn/practice method. The first term of the course will focus on the diagnostic, screening, and intervention models and procedures currently used with children having problems of attention or behavioral adjustment.

The second term will concentrate on implementation of programs and teaching techniques to deal with a child's special needs. I plan to focus on an approach useful to classroom-based or program-based personnel as the key change agents. In addition, parents are seen as the significant others crucial for the maintenance of any changes attained in the school/program settings in which the children participate.

III. Texts:

1. Blackham, G., & Silberman, A. Modification of Child and Adolescent Behavior. (3rd ed.). Wadsworth, 1980.
2. Blankenship, C., & Lilly, M.S. Mainstreaming Students with Learning and Behavior Problems. Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1981.

IV. Topical Outline:

A. Term I:

1. Exam 1:

Definitions, Prevalence, Classification Factors
Theoretical Views: Behavioral, Psychoeducational, and Ecological Models.

Lecture Notes and B & L Chapters 1-3, and B & S Chapters 1-3.

2. Exam 2:

Managing Behavior
Measurement of Behavioral Change

Lecture Notes and B & L Chapters 4-8, and B & S Chapters 4 & 5.

3. Completion of Four (4) Observations and Reports:

- 1) General Work Behaviors of a Designated Subject.
- 2) Observation Procedure
- 3) Observation Procedure
- 4) Report on Home-School Communication

B. Term II:

1. Exam 3:

Behavioral Curriculum Interventions

Lecture Notes and B & L Chapters 9 & 10, and B & S Chapters 6-8.

2. Exam 4:

A Social Learning Intervention Program
The Developmental Therapy Orientation
The Role of Parents in Special Education

Lecture Notes and B & S Chapters 9 & 10.

3. Major Report:

Design and implementation of a workable overall strategy for reduction of deviant behaviors.

V. Student Evaluation:

"C" grade: [Completion of 4 observations & reports.
Completion of major report.
Pass 4 examinations at the "C" level.

"B" grade: [Completion of 4 observations & reports.
Completion of major report.
Pass 4 examinations at the "B" level.

"A" [Completion of 4 observations & reports.
Completion of major report.
Pass 4 examinations at the "A" level.

VI. Course Objectives:

From the combination of textbook, lecture and applied situations, the student will be able to:

1. Collect and organize information from classroom observation, analysis of work samples, previous test results, student records, etc., in order to prepare an I.E.P.
2. Identify appropriate instructional activities for students with behavior problems and to identify when to modify those activities.
3. Identify and modify, if necessary, appropriate measurement procedures in order to determine the needs of the student with behavior problems.
4. State and employ a behavioral decision-making model when working with students with behavior problems.
5. State some typical ways in which behavior problem students will act in specific situations and identify some strategies to intervene with this student.
6. Identify sources of information on behavior problems outside of those presented in ED D 411B.

VII. Bibliography:

Hammill, D., & Bartel, N. Teaching Children With Learning And Behavior Problems. Allyn & Bacon, 1978.

Long, N., Morse, W., & Newman, R. Conflict In The Classroom (4th ed.). Wadsworth, 1980.

Millman, H., Schaefer, C., & Cohen, J. Therapies For School Behavior Problems. Jossey-Bass, 1980.

Newcomer, P. L. Understanding And Teaching Emotionally Disturbed Children. Allyn & Bacon, 1980.

Ross, A. Psychological Disorders Of Children. McGraw-Hill, 1980.

Smith, J., & Smith, D. Child Management. Research Press, 1976.

Wallace, G., & Kauffman, J. Teaching Children With Learning Problems. (2nd ed.). Merrill, 1978.

VIII. Journals:

There are many journals that contain suggestions, hints, research reviews, and other useful information about children with problems of attention and behavior. You may want to join the Council for Exceptional Children. By doing so, you will receive ongoing news about exceptional children. It would be especially helpful to add the special interest group (CCBD) which focuses on "behaviorial disorders."

Academic Therapy
American Journal of Art Therapy
American Journal of Mental Deficiency
B.C. Journal of Special Education
Clearinghouse
Exceptional Children*
Focus on Exceptional Children
Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis
Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders
Journal Child Psychology & Psychiatry
Journal of Learning Disabilities
Journal of Music Therapy
Journal of Research and Crime and Delinquency
Journal of School Psychology
Journal of Special Education
Special Education In Canada*
Teaching Exceptional Children*

*These journals come with membership in C.E.C., plus, you receive Update, a monthly newsletter. Please think seriously about joining C.E.C. It is a good way to keep up with the developments in Special Education.
