Playwork: A Profession Challenging Societal Factors Devaluing Children’s Play

Associate Professor Michael Matthew Patte, Dr Fraser Brown

Abstract

Over the duration of my teaching career I have witnessed the intensification of attitudes devaluing play, and now in my role as a university professor I have visited many school sites that offer little time for child-initiated play. These personal experiences painted a bleak picture for the inclusion of play in the daily lives of children. So while attending The Association for the Study of Play’s conference in 2006, I sought out sessions that focused on issues of play advocacy. As it turned out, a session offered by Fraser Brown titled Children Without Play was just what the doctor ordered. At that presentation I was introduced to the field of Playwork and became intrigued by a profession whose underlying principles were well suited to address the societal factors devaluing children’s play in America.

Keywords

Children’s Play; Playwork; Societal Factors

Full Text:

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.21913/JSW.v5i1.732

Social workers conduct intake interviews with individuals and families to identify their needs and strengths for resolving issues of concern. When a problem is ongoing, social workers develop a case management plan that outlines goals and lists resources available to the client. Keeping up-to-date case management notes is very important for tracking and evaluating clients' progress. The job of a social worker is challenging due to the competing demands of the position. Typically, social workers manage a heavy caseload, which means keeping up with dozens of emails, phone calls and appointments. Social workers must be prepared to handle tough issues. These intersectional factors that devalue social work and lower its salaries can be counter-determinants for women when choosing their careers, meaning that social work may be losing great women leaders because they are steered toward higher-paid, higher-valued “male-dominated” professions. Social work as a profession and especially social work employers must recognize these gendered divisions within the field, and develop and implement strategies to combat this persistent inequality. Having men in social work positions is important, but so is having women in social work leadership positions.

Start studying Social Work Chapters 1-8. Learn vocabulary, terms and more with flashcards, games and other study tools. Has a broader meaning and encompasses social work, public welfare, and other related programs and activities. The basic well-being of an individual, or any group of people. This is addressed by the services, organizations, and other ways in which people's needs are met. Services are delivered by lots of people. Social Work. An art, a science, and a profession that helps people solve personal, group and community problems. Seeks to enhance the social functioning of individuals, singly and in groups, by activities focused upon their social relationships which constitute the interaction betw