

# CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Observing, Communicating and Engaging with Children and Young People

A 30 Masters credit level module for social workers and other professionals who need to deepen their capabilities for understanding, engaging and communicating with children and young people in complex, contested and sensitive situations.

### Who is this module aimed at?

Social workers and other professionals working in early years, education, health and young people's services who work with infants, children and young people. You must be in a professional role where you are regularly engaging and communicating directly with children and young people as you will not be able to complete the assessed work otherwise.

### What and how will I learn?

There are three intersecting areas of focus:

- a) learning about children and their internal, relational and social worlds through theory and observation
- b) learning about your own subjectivity and use of self
- c) developing capability in engagement and communication with children/young people.

Within lecture-based presentations, you will discuss theory and research in relation to children's experience and development within their psychosocial worlds, and examine frameworks to enable flexible, creative, and supportive engagement and communication in a professional context.

The six-session observational exercise at the heart of the module will help you hone your observational skills, and deepen your capacity to reflect on children's subjective internal worlds, on the influence of their social worlds and experiences, on interpersonal processes, on yourself as an observer, and on the connections between this learning and your own emotional worlds and practice.

To enable this, you will observe a child not known to you and not receiving services or interventions from your own or a similar agency and present a written account within a seminar group.

While you may have previously undertaken child observation exercises as part of your qualifying training, this module offers a much more in-depth and critical experience designed to underpin specialist practice.

**Discuss research and theory in relation to children, their development, and their internal and external worlds**

**Hone your observational skills, explore your subjectivity, and deepen your use of self**

**Critically consider and practise the methods and skills needed for complex and sensitive work with children**

**Deepen your capacity to read children's non-verbal communications**

## Taught Sessions 2026

Most sessions will be taught in person on campus, but two sessions will be delivered remotely. Participants will also be given an individual online tutorial.

DATE	WHERE	TIME
Tuesday 13 January 2026	REMOTE	10am-4pm
Tuesday 3 February 2026	Sussex campus	10am-4pm
Tuesday 17 February 2026	REMOTE	10am-12pm
Tuesday 24 February 2026	Sussex campus	10am-4pm
Tuesday 17 March 2026	Sussex campus	10am-4pm
Tuesday 14 April 2026	Sussex campus	10am-4pm
Tuesday 5 May 2026	Sussex campus	10am-4pm
Tuesday 2 June 2026	Sussex campus	10am-4pm

## Applying

**For more information - including fees - and applications forms, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/schools/education-and-social-work/study/social-work/cpd](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/schools/education-and-social-work/study/social-work/cpd).**

**Completed application forms must be received by 5 December 2025**

Local authority funded applications must be authorised by a line manager and sent to the University via an Agency Training Manager to confirm funding.

Self-funded applications can be emailed directly to **pqcoord@sussex.ac.uk**

## Contact

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