

SWiS 3.41 Work with parents to understand and meet their own needs (schools)

UNIT SUMMARY

Who is this unit for?

This unit is for you if you work with parents and carers, usually without direct supervision.

What is this unit about?

This unit is about practitioners supporting parents in exploring their own needs and working in partnership with parents to look at the ways in which their needs can be met.

Unit outcomes

Outcome 3.41.1 Facilitate exploration of parents' needs

Outcome 3.41.2 Work with parents to help them meet their identified needs

Origin of this unit

This unit appears as unit WWP309 in the national occupational standards for work with parents.

Place in qualifications

- This is an optional unit in the level 3 certificate and/or diploma in support work in schools
- This is an optional unit in the level 3 diploma for support work in schools (parent support adviser endorsed pathway)

Evidence requirements

An holistic approach to assessment is recommended where possible. A single statement from an expert witness may, therefore, cover more than one of the mandatory and optional units. In some instances, however, it may be necessary to seek statements from more than one expert witness in order to cover the requirements.

The following evidence is required for each unit as a whole:

- At least one expert witness statement describing your performance
- Evidence of your understanding and skills. This could be in any suitable format and may be supported by translation where necessary, such as:
 - records from an expert witness or training mentor of discussions they have had with you about your understanding
 - any other evidence that was produced during the activities or tasks assessed, such as notes, e-mails or records
- A personal log reflecting on your own role, responsibilities and skills

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Glossary of terms used in this unit

Needs	what individuals require in order to maintain emotional and physical well-being
Parents	parents and carers
Particular/specialist help	help which requires skills and expertise beyond that of the parenting practitioner. For example, this may be medical, legal, social, welfare rights, housing, mental health expertise

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3.41.1 Facilitate exploration of parents' needs

Performance criteria

You will need to:

- P1 use a respectful approach when interacting with parents that demonstrates they are valued and knowledgeable individuals and acknowledge and validate their experience
- P2 help parents identify the most important issues facing them
- P3 help parents to recognise the connection between the mental and emotional health of parents and that of their children
- P4 help parents to recognise the changes which parenthood makes to parents' lives including relationships between parents
- P5 reassure parents of the confidentiality of any information, unless children's well-being is at risk
- P6 allow parents time and space to express their feelings comfortably
- P7 help parents to understand and acknowledge difficult feelings
- P8 challenge parents assertively when appropriate
- P9 assist parents to access appropriate information and support
- P10 recognise when particular/specialist help is needed and how to refer parents to appropriate services

3.41.2 Work with parents to help them meet their identified needs

Performance criteria

You will need to:

- P1 use information to help parents to identify the options available to them
- P2 help parents to identify an effective course of action to meet their needs
- P3 encourage parents to access the support they have identified
- P4 respect the individual's decisions and preferred course of action or non-action
- P5 help parents to monitor, review and make improvements to their chosen course of action
- P6 help parents to make choices about balancing meeting their own and their children's needs
- P7 help parents to explore the issues and make their own decisions about balancing child care, work and home where appropriate

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- P8 enable parents to explore ways of building adult relationships within and beyond the family
- P9 help parents to develop strategies for communicating effectively with the range of professionals with whom they will come into contact through their children
- P10 recognise when particular/specialist help is needed and how to refer parents to appropriate services

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 sources of information and support available to parents
- K2 local statutory or voluntary organisations providing support for parents
- K3 how parents can access sources of information
- K4 why it is important to use a non-judgmental approach when discussing issues with parents
- K5 why it is important to respect parents' decisions about the course of action they choose to take, even if this is no action at all
- K6 the implications of parents not taking any action to meet their needs and how you make parents aware of this
- K7 importance of using a respectful approach when interacting with parents that demonstrates they are valued as knowledgeable individuals
- K8 importance of being able to challenge parents assertively and ways of doing this
- K9 social, cultural and economic pressures on parents
- K10 the effect of gender expectations on parenting
- K11 the effect of particular physical and psychological contexts on parents and how they function
- K12 the contribution of extended family to the experiences of parents and children
- K13 the changes which parenthood makes to parents lives
- K14 the effect of parenthood on parents' relationships with each other
- K15 the connection between the mental and emotional health of parents and that of their children
- K16 the effect on parents of the developmental stages of their children as appropriate
- K17 the practical and emotional implications for parents of managing childcare, work and home
- K18 the importance of developing and maintaining adult relationships within and beyond the family and ways of achieving this
- K19 the importance of and approaches to parents developing healthy relationships with the range of practitioners with whom they will come into contact through their children
- K20 how to recognise when particular/specialist help is needed and how to refer parents to appropriate services