Certificate in Counselling Children with Special Educational Needs

Overview
Working with children who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) is one of the most rewarding but challenging jobs. A lot of helping professionals are interested in working in this field, but might have some misconceptions and feel loss when handling children with SEN. In view of this, the Counselling and Research Centre have designed a certificate course that provides comprehensive psychological and assessments knowledge for advanced study on different SEN and mental disorder. The Certificate in Counselling Children with Special Educational Needs is an 80-hour course which focuses on the following areas: diagnostic criteria on different special needs and mental disorders, introduction to assessment tools, children with SEN's educational and counselling needs, counselling treatment approaches and professional advice for helping professionals.

It is designed for:
- Healthcare professionals who wish to extend their knowledge of special educational needs prior to undertaking advanced training.
- Psychological counsellors, general and guidance teachers, teaching assistants, social workers, child care workers, nurses, speech therapists, occupational therapists and other healthcare professionals.
- Others who wish to enhance their SEN knowledge and apply them within their professional practice.

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. Identify major SEN and mental disorders through understanding of the diagnostic criteria
2. Identify both formal and informal assessment this is suitable and appropriate for children with SEN
3. Understand the educational needs of the children with SEN
4. Understand the counselling needs of the children with SEN
5. Develop strategies and counselling treatment for children with SEN

Course Content
The Certificate programme is based on a comprehensive menu of taught modules:

Module 1: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
Children with ASD are commonly believed to be lack of the skills to communicate and socialize with others. In this module, we will go through the common signs and diagnostic criteria for Autistic Spectrum Disorders including Autism, Rett's Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, and Asperger's Disorder. Early screening, counselling treatment approaches and interventions will also be discussed.

Module 2: Attention-Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD)
Children with AD/HD are often being misunderstood and labeled as 'lazy', which mainly because they displayed restless behaviors, lack of the ability to control, easily distracted and have difficulty in maintaining concentration. In this module, we will go through the diagnostic criteria, the core and associated characteristics and the counseling approaches in supporting children with AD/HD.

Module 3: Mental Disabilities
Diagnosis is not the most important issue when working with children with mental disabilities. This module will emphasize on the basic understanding of psychological assessments, the utilization of the results to gain a better understanding of children's strengths and weaknesses, and how to develop an effective individual learning plan by adopting appropriate counselling techniques and training strategies.

Module 4: Learning Disabilities
Children with learning disabilities may experience delay in language development, information processing development and physical development. This module aims to increase the awareness of the impact of learning disabilities on children's development, to identify possible challenges and to develop appropriate treatment and intervention.

Module 5: Gifted Children
Special educational needs of the gifted children are often overlooked; however, these children may also experience behavioural or emotional and social difficulties. We will discuss the definition of gifted children, their potential problems and the comprehensive counseling approaches.

Module 6: Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) & Conduct Disorder (CD)
Research statistics suggested children with AD/HD have a higher tendency in developing ODD and CD. In this module, we will gain thorough understanding of ODD and CD through the discussion of their causes, treatment and preventive intervention.

Module 7: Emotional Problem and Mood Disorder
Children with mood disorders suffer from extreme, persist, or poorly regulated emotional states. The module will give an overview of the definitions, causes and treatment of different mood disorders. Specific counselling techniques will be introduced in order to support children by moderating symptoms and as preventive interventions.

Module 8: Anxiety Disorder
When children experience excessive anxieties, their daily functioning may be affected and may show symptoms through the physical, cognitive and behavioural response systems. This module aimed to discuss the categories of anxiety disorders and their features, including Separation Anxiety Disorder (SAD), Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Module 9: Schizophrenia
Schizophrenia, Childhood Onset Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders are severe and chronic mental disorders. We will look into the etiology of the disorders; positive, negative and cognitive symptoms and possible treatments.

Assessments
Students will be assessed by two multiple choice question (MCQ) tests at the 5th and10th weeks of the course. Certificate of Attendance will be given to those who have fulfilled the standard requirements of 80% attendance, while Certificate of Completion will be given to those who achieved a pass in both MCQ tests and fulfilled the standard requirements of 80% attendance.

Course Schedule

This course runs on every Sunday. It consists of nine modules over ten weeks.

Week	Date	Topic
1	6th Oct 2013 (Sun)	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
2	20th Oct 2013 (Sun)	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
3	27th Oct 2013 (Sun)	Intellectual Disabilities
4	3rd Nov 2013 (Sun)	Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder
5	10th Nov 2013 (Sun)	Learning Disabilities
6	17th Nov 2013 (Sun)	Gifted Children
7	24th Nov 2013 (Sun)	Schizophrenia
8	1st Dec 2013 (Sun)	Oppositional Defiant Disorder & Conduct Disorder
9	8th Dec 2013 (Sun)	Anxiety Disorder
10	15th Dec 2013 (Sun)	Emotional Problem and Mood Disorder

Programme Details

Entry Requirements	Applicants should have completed a degree in Education/Psychology/Counselling/ Mental health related discipline. Priority will be given to helping professionals who have related working experiences.
Date/Time	Every Sunday from 6th Oct 2013 to 15th Dec 2013 From 10a.m. to 6p.m.
Venue	Room 103, Library Complex, Hong Kong Shue Yan University
Programme Director	Prof Sun, Tien-Lun Catherine
Lecturers / Counselling Psychologists	Miss Kwok, Sin-Hang Helen Miss Lo, Man-Chung Sonia Miss Wong, Ka-Ying Shirley Mr. Yu, Chun-Yeung Isaac
Enrolment	30
Medium of Instruction	Cantonese (with English materials)
Fee	HK$16, 000 HK$14, 000 (Early Bird & APCA members)
Application Deadline	30th September 2013 (Early application before 20th September 2013)
Payment Method	Cheque

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Application Procedures

1. Please hand in a **crossed cheque** for the course fees payable to '**Counselling and Research Centre**' and mail together with the completed application forms by **post** to Counselling and Research Centre, Department of Counselling and Psychology, Hong Kong Shue Yan University, 10 Wai Tsui Crescent, Braemar Hill Road, North Point, Hong Kong, C/O Miss Connie Tsang.

2. Deadline of the application: **3rd October 2013.**

3. Places will be offered to qualified applicants on a first-come-first-served basis.

4. Early application before **20th September 2013** (if the application is accepted) and APCA members will enjoy a discount of course fee at the price of HK$14,000.

5. All information collected will be kept **strictly confidential**.

6. For further enquiries and advice for flexible study options, please feel free to contact Miss Sonia Lo (Lecturer / Counselling Psychologist) at phone no. **28067333** or email to **crc2@hksyu.edu**