

PSYCHOANALYTIC OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES

Masters/Postgraduate Diploma Programmes in Leeds, Liverpool and Newcastle 2009/10

What is Psychoanalytic Infant Observation?

Initiated at the Tavistock Clinic, London in 1948 by Esther Bick, at the request of Dr John Bowlby, as a teaching method.

Taught in the north of England for the last 20 years. The full Masters level programme is available in Leeds, Liverpool and Newcastle.

The core Infant Observation module involves once-weekly observations of an infant in their family setting from birth to two years.

Students are taught in small-group seminars facilitated by experienced child and adolescent psychotherapists.

Offers a vivid first hand learning experience of child development.

Increases the capacity of professionals to contain anxiety and approach complex difficulties with a deeper understanding of human development and interaction.

Work Discussion seminars apply the psychoanalytic observation method to the work setting with the aim of sharpening perceptions, insight and reflective enquiry.

Modules in Psychoanalytic Theory, Child Development Research, Personality Development and a further one-year Young Child Observation provide a comprehensive, detailed and stimulating programme of learning at post-graduate level.

“Psychoanalytic Observational Studies is a distinctive experiential approach to training for professionals working with children, young people and their families.”

Each of the three programmes in the north is validated through a separate academic partner

Leeds - University of Leeds

Liverpool - Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust /University of East London

Newcastle - Northumbria University

Who is the course for?

All professionals working with children, young people and their families who want to develop their capacity to observe and to think about the meaning of behaviour from a psychoanalytic perspective. Students include: teachers, learning mentors, social workers, residential care workers, psychologists, child and adolescent psychiatrists, paediatricians, counsellors, CAMHS practitioners, health visitors, midwives and youth workers.

What does it offer?

The skills gained through the experience of observing infants and young children over an extended period enhance the quality of direct work with children, young people and families. The programme is a pre-requisite for those wishing to undertake clinical training in child and adolescent psychotherapy.

Will it help my work with children and young people?

Students report that the programme is highly relevant to their professional work. Working practice is significantly enhanced by a better understanding of difficult or troublesome behaviour. They also indicate that they feel more able to think under pressure and not to be forced into precipitate action.



Staff and students gather for a course meeting

What do students think about the course?

"I like the fact you aren't expected to know and can find out and learn en route."

"It was relevant in terms of thinking about issues faced in infancy and how they impact on older children."

"The discussions were able to open out material in the observations so that I saw so much more than I thought was there."

"I appreciated feeling free to expand my thinking."

"Really helpful to enable me to step back and think about what's going on in relation to me, the work setting and my role."

"Don't think I could have survived this long in my current job without this module!"

Further information

Go to www.nscap.org.uk

Or contact:

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