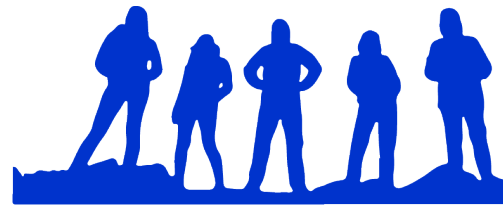


WHY HIRE A CHILD AND YOUTH CARE PRACTITIONER?



Child and Youth Care Practitioners (also known as Child and Youth Workers or Child and Youth Counsellors - CYWs/CYCs) are specifically trained in working with children, youth and families who experience complex needs relating to mental health, neurodiversities, trauma and behavioural challenges.



How are Child and Youth Care Practitioners Important in Organizations?

They work alongside young people directly, consistently and often for several hours at a time, thus building strong relationships with them in their life space.

[Click here to see the Safe Guarding the Other 23 Hours Report](#)

This practice is rooted in strength-based approaches, human development, advocacy, relational practice, critical self-reflection, and anti-oppressive practice (I.e.: anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, inclusivity and equity), mental health, trauma-informed practice, crisis de-escalation, creation and facilitation of therapeutic programming and much more.

How are Child and Youth Care Practitioners Educated?

Child and Youth Care Practitioners/Child and Youth Workers are certified with a 3-year Advanced Diploma and/or Bachelors or Masters Degree in Child and Youth Care. This is in addition to several specialized post-graduate programs, representing twenty-three post-secondary institutions in the Province of Ontario alone.



Residential Care

Group Homes, Foster Care, Residential Treatment, Transitional Housing



Youth Justice

Open and Closed Facilities, Mental Health Support, Community Intervention and Integration Programs



Education

Special education classrooms, entire school-based settings, Section 23 Classrooms, Private Schools



Mental Health Organizations

Day Treatment and Live-In Services, Children's Mental Health Programs, Prevention and Intervention



Counselling and Crisis Support Services

Anxiety Reduction Support, Crisis Intervention, In-Home Family Support



Hospitals

Mental Health and Eating Disorder Wards, Day Treatment, Emergency Rooms, Outpatient Supports



Government

Ministry of Education and Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services



Community Organizations

Community Centres, Child and Youth Community Programs, After-School Programs, Housing/Insecurity Programs, Human Trafficking and Street-Work Intervention Programs, Substance Use Programs, Drop-In Service Centres

How Can Organizations Support Child and Youth Care Practitioners/Child and Youth Workers?

- Encourage employees who identify as Child and Youth Care Practitioners/Child and Youth Workers and/or Child and Youth Counsellors to register with the Ontario Association of Child and Youth Care
- Ensure that Practitioners you employ or work alongside receive or have access to effective supervision and training
- Encourage and support Practitioners to attend conferences and events that are specific to Child and Youth Care
- Be equitable and inclusive in your hiring and promotion practices of Child and Youth Care Practitioner roles

