

Child & Youth Workers

“Child and Youth workers work with troubled children and adolescents who face a variety of emotional, behavioural or physical problems. These problems can arise within the family, at school, as a result of drug and alcohol abuse or because of conflicts with the law.

The Child and Youth Worker is a mental health professional who is part of an interdisciplinary team that serves children, adolescents and their families. They develop meaningful relationships because of the ongoing, intimate contact and, subsequently, are present to provide support and counselling when the client needs it. They also help manage inappropriate and/or destructive behaviour, including verbal aggression. If necessary, they may be physically involved in controlling their client's behaviour. Additionally, they are the source for appropriate role modelling, general supervision and management of behaviour and counselling. Types of relationships that are demanded of the C.Y.W. are ones that challenge the individual emotionally, mentally and physically. Consequently, self-awareness and emotional maturity are crucial characteristics of a Child and Youth Worker. While the C.Y.W. is trained to work in a variety of community agencies, she/he is expected to share a common set of values which includes a commitment to the rights of children and families.

Child and Youth workers are employed by school boards, group homes, hospitals, correctional facilities, social agencies, detention or rehabilitation centres or community outreach programs.”

(From the University of Western Ontario, Office of Interprofessional Health Education and Research, 2012, <http://www.ipe.uwo.ca/Professionals/CYW.html>)

For more information, visit the website listed below:

Ontario Association of Child and Youth Counsellors - <http://www.oacyc.org/index.php?page=12>