

DA1000P

Children and Families Ministry: Core Issues and Contextualities for Excellence in Practice

Intensive unit: DA1000P

February 13-15, 18-20
July 11-13, 15-17

Description

This unit examines the theological, developmental and methodological resources for contextual children and families ministries across the spectrum of Australian church based, community based and para-church expressions. Addressing the theology, spirituality and sociology of the child in relation to family, church, faith, culture, technology, history and philosophical discourse, the unit develops critical skills for evaluating and designing robust, contextual processes for discipleship, pastoral care, safe practice, mission and leadership with children and their families.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Outline major frameworks of child theology, theologies of child, child spirituality and theology for children in religious education.
2. Articulate the interaction between child development, theology, social discourse and learning paradigms.
3. Identify ecclesiological, missional, religious education and discipleship structures and evaluate the place of child within these.
4. Identify and articulate best practice procedures regarding protective behaviours to safeguard the welfare of children, practitioners and the community.
5. Critically evaluate different methodologies in ministry with children and their families.

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Literature Review (1000 words)	25%
Observation Journal Reflections (2 x 500 words)	25%
Quiz (500 words equivalent)	10%
Essay (1500 words)	40%

Pre-requisite: N/A

Lecturer: Beth Barnett

Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Barna, George. *Transforming children into spiritual champions*. Ventura: Regal, 2003.

*Beckwith, Ivy. *Postmodern children's ministry: ministry to children in the 21st century*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004

*Buckland, Ron. *Perspectives on children and the Gospel: excellence in Ministry with children and their families*. West Gosford, NSW: Scripture Union, 2001.

Bunge, MJ. *The Child in Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

*Cupit, G. *Children and Spirituality*. Central Coast Business Centre, N.S.W. : Scripture Union Australia, 2005.

Hay, David & Nye, Rebecca, *The Spirit of the Child*. London: Fount, 1998.

Kociumbas, J. *Australian Childhood; A History*. St Leonards, N.S.W : Allen & Unwin, 1997.

Medved, Michael and Dianne. *Saving Childhood: Protecting Our Children from the National Assault on Innocence*. Zondervan, 1998.

Mercer, Joyce. *Welcoming children : a practical theology of childhood*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2005.

Stonehouse, C. *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

DA8000P

Children and Families Ministry: Core Issues and Contextualities for Excellence in Practice

Intensive unit: DA8000P

February 14-16, 19-21

July 11-13, 15-17

Description

This unit examines the theological, developmental and methodological resources for contextual children and families ministries across the spectrum of Australian church based, community based and para-church expressions. Addressing the theology, spirituality and sociology of the child in relation to family, church, faith, culture, technology, history and philosophical discourse, the unit develops critical skills for evaluating and designing robust, contextual processes for discipleship, pastoral care, safe practice, mission and leadership with children and their families.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Outline major frameworks of child theology, theologies of child, child spirituality and theology for children in religious education.
2. Articulate the interaction between child development, theology, social discourse and learning paradigms.
3. Identify ecclesiological, missional, religious education and discipleship structures and evaluate the place of child within these.
4. Identify and articulate best practice procedures regarding protective behaviours to safeguard the welfare of children, practitioners and the community.
5. Critically evaluate different methodologies in ministry with children and their families.
6. Integrate, in reflection and practice, theories of child spirituality, child theology and child development

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
Literature Review (1500 words)	25%
Observation Journal Reflections (3 x 500 words)	25%
Quiz (500 words equivalent)	10%
Essay (2500 words)	40%

Pre-requisite: N/A

Lecturer: Beth Barnett

Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Barna, George. *Transforming children into spiritual champions*. Ventura: Regal, 2003.

*Beckwith, Ivy. *Postmodern children's ministry: ministry to children in the 21st century*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004

*Buckland, Ron. *Perspectives on children and the Gospel: excellence in Ministry with children and their families*. West Gosford, NSW: Scripture Union, 2001.

Bunge, MJ. *The Child in Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

*Cupit, G. *Children and Spirituality*. Central Coast Business Centre, N.S.W. : Scripture Union Australia, 2005.

Hay, David & Nye, Rebecca, *The Spirit of the Child*. London: Fount, 1998.

Kociumbas, J. *Australian Childhood; A History*. St Leonards, N.S.W : Allen & Unwin, 1997.

Medved, Michael and Dianne. *Saving Childhood: Protecting Our Children from the National Assault on Innocence*. Zondervan, 1998.

Mercer, Joyce. *Welcoming children : a practical theology of childhood*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2005.

Stonehouse, C. *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.