

Families

It may be helpful to have a trained family therapist teach this in conjunction with the physician preceptor.

A. Knowledge

Stages of family development/the life cycle:

Between families: the unattached young adult

The joining of families: newly married couples

The family with young children

The family with adolescents

Launching children and moving on

The family in later life

Family cohesion/social support

Family systems theory: boundaries, open/closed systems, mutuality

Process/communication:

Rules of interactional patterns

Styles (coping and communications)

Roles and rituals

Safety, trust and intimacy

Family dysfunction

Symptoms of dysfunction: Incest, addiction violence, unresolved grief/emotional cutoffs, psychosomatic illness and other psychiatric disorders

Understanding shame-based families

Alternative family units (may have more conflict, stress)

Adolescent parent

Single parent families

Foster families

Blended families/stepfamilies

Gay and lesbian families

Inter-generational families

Custody laws

Families in crisis:

Separation and divorce

Chronic illness

Violence

Untimely death, grief and mourning

Major effects of values systems on families

Culture
Religion

B. Skills

Interview techniques and tools:

- Building an alliance
- Data gathering/key questions
- Risk/conflict assessment
- Confidentiality
- Working through resistance
- Transference/counter transference
- Counterviewing
- Modeling appropriate interaction/problem solving
- Confrontation of difficult social problems

Intervention

Referral and follow-up

Termination

C. Attitudes

- Respect for alternative family systems
- Empathetic understanding
- Empowerment through an educational approach
- Setting individualized goals/contracts with families
- Acknowledgment of other "right ways" to do things
- Acceptance of alternative child rearing practices

D. Barriers

- Unrecognized attitudes about alternative family systems
- Hesitancy to confront difficult issues
- Pediatrics is child focused: need for family focus

E. Advocacy

- Appropriate support of debate concerning family legislation (day care, parental leave, after school care)
- Advocacy for acceptance of alternative family models

References

- Doherty, William and Baird, Macaran. Family Centered Medical Care: A Clinical Casebook. Guilford Press, 1987.
- McDaniel, Susan H. Campbell, Thomas and Seaburn, David. Family oriented primary care: A Manual for Medical Providers. Springer - Verlag, 1990.