

EDITORIAL POLICY

In 1984 the Editorial Review Board shaped the editorial policy for *Child and Youth Care Work* (The Journal of Child and Youth Care Work, Vol. 2, 1985). It is reprinted here as an attempt to keep our readers informed and to encourage them to help us in our effort to keep our policy relevant.

Content is the foremost consideration in reviewing submissions. We believe that, in order to draw forth firsthand accounts and descriptions of issues, practices, and concepts directly related to child and youth care, initial editorial attention has to be focused on subject matter.

Content is defined by several criteria. The most pertinent are relevancy, clarity, and conviction. In general, a manuscript article is considered relevant if it falls into one of two categories. The first includes techniques, practices, approaches, thoughts, and feelings emanating from or related to a direct work experience. The second includes broader issues such as the professionalization movement, educational curricula, philosophical reflections, and generalized treatment and learning approaches. If the first direction is chosen, the author is encouraged to stick to his or her experience, allowing it to stand on its own merits. This is an area where there is a tremendous need for information and it is an excellent place for new authors to start. If the second direction is being pursued, a thorough literature review is essential. In all cases where documentation or verification of facts is indicated, we urge caution, restraint, thoroughness, and selectivity.

Clarity is judged by the author's ability to communicate with the readers in an organized straightforward manner. The Journal's audience consists of practitioners from a broad range of residential and community-based settings. Articles using articulate, everyday language and examples that show how the material can be related to a practice experience are most effective.

Conviction is the author's ability to convey a message with forcefulness and sensitivity. Authors are encouraged to write on topics about which they feel most strongly. In our opinion, conviction is conveyed best with a tone that indicates the authors were able to question their views in the process of reaching a conclusion and that they value different opinions.

A second priority is to continue to solicit articles primarily from those authors who identify themselves as child or youth care workers in direct practice. Others are invited to submit articles, but with an

understanding that we have a major commitment to provide a forum for practitioners to publish. Inherent in this commitment is a willingness to work with first-time authors.

A Review Board consisting of practitioners and former practitioners helps develop and select articles. The objective is to implement our editorial policy by having child and youth care workers working with and critiquing each other's writing. The short article in this issue entitled, *The Review Process*, exemplifies our commitment to practitioners and to peer review. Finally, we see a need to remain flexible. While we are confident that our experiences and opinions are as good a place as any to start, we are fully aware that our work must be tested and altered by the submissions, criticisms and support we receive. Like our work with children, our growth is dependent upon a process of mutual adaptation and acceptance.

This represents our current policy. Readers are encouraged to join us in a continuous effort to mold a worthy contribution for the knowledge base. If you have any suggestions that you feel will help, please forward them to the editor. We promise to consider every written suggestion at our next annual meeting.