

DEFINITION OF THE FIELD

In January, 1992, the International Child and Youth Care Consortium developed and adopted the following definition of the child and youth care field, which was also adopted in March by the International Leadership Coalition for Professional Child and Youth Care.

CHILD AND YOUTH CARE

Current Description of the Field
Child and Youth Care Education Consortium
25 January 1992, Toronto

Professional Child and Youth Care practice focuses on the infant, child and adolescent, both normal and with special needs, within the context of the family, the community and the life span. The developmental-ecological perspective emphasizes the interaction between persons and the physical and social environments, including cultural and political settings.

Professional practitioners promote the optimal development of children, youth and their families in a variety of settings, such as early care and education, community-based child and youth development programs, parent education and family support, school-based programs, community mental health, group homes, residential centers, day and residential treatment, early intervention, home-based care and treatment, psychiatric centers, rehabilitation programs, pediatric health care and juvenile justice programs.

Child and Youth Care practice includes skills in assessing client and program needs, designing and implementing programs and planned environments, integrating developmental, preventive and therapeutic requirements into the life space, contributing to the development of knowledge and practice, and participating in systems interventions through direct care, supervision, administration, teaching, research, consultation and advocacy.

LEADERS IN CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAMS ARE STUDENTS AND GRADUATES OF NOVA UNIVERSITY

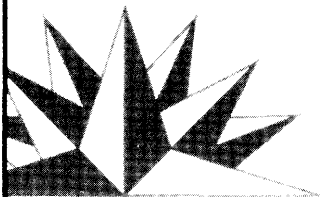
Roger Caballero, M.S.
Executive Director
Victoria Courts Child Care Center
San Antonio, Texas

Betty Perkins-Carpenter, M.S.
President/C.E.O., Fit by Five, Inc.
and Perkins Swim Club, Inc.
Rochester, New York



Jerome C. Johnson, Ed.D.
Elementary School Principal
Fayette County School System
Lexington, New York

Vincent J. Carbone, Ed.D.
Certified Behavior Analyst
Osceola County School District
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JUNE, 1994

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International Child and Youth Care Conference

co-sponsored by:

International Federation of Educative Communities
and
National Organization of Child Care Worker Associations
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University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
"CITY OF FESTIVALS"

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