



## GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICUM FAMILIES

### **The Family:**

The family must have at least two pre-school children. This is to ensure that the student has as much time as possible with children and child related activities. There must be one designated person at home at all times to provide support and advice to the students.

In fairness to the family and its children, our student and others, we do not have families as part of our practicum programme who are already involved with other training courses. We all have slightly different philosophies and methods of achieving these which makes it difficult for families to switch between courses.

Health - We need to know if any members of the family have been exposed to a serious infectious illness that has not been given a medical clearance. A future career could be destroyed if a student became ill and/or became a carrier of an infectious disease. We encourage immunization for our students where appropriate. We would appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

### **The Student:**

During our Stage 1 course, with a focus on the family home, each student has three placements with a combined total of seven weeks. Every student you host will be at a different stage of their course, so we ask that you do not compare one student with another. Each student may also have strengths in different areas.

Please appreciate that the students come to us from a wide range of backgrounds and experience. Some students will slot into your home and routines more quickly and relax more easily than others. Please assist your student to settle in.

It is important to remember that these students are in training and during the early placements will need to observe parents interacting with their children. During later placements the students can be expected to work alongside you in the daily routines of a young family.

#### *First Contact*

The student will telephone you a few days before beginning the practicum to arrange the most suitable time to arrive on the first Monday. We expect the student to be in your home for 7 hours each day which includes the 'lunch hour'.

### **The Household Routine:**

#### **Stage 1**

The students are advised to check with caregivers about particular household routines. Every home is different so please support the student as she learns to fit in with your requirements. The students are training to work with children and to be able to manage a home. This involves all child related activities and housework that keeps the household functioning.

The students can be expected to help with family meals, general cleaning and household laundry. As well as the normal child orientated tasks, they will be trained to be involved with learning experiences to extend the children. The students are not expected to look after the bedroom or the laundry of the parents.

**Stage 1 students are not to be left in sole charge during their first two practicums.**

## **Student Assessments: Stage 1**

The students will have specific assignments to complete on each practicum which focus on different aspects of their training as they gain in knowledge and skills. They also have a range of child observations to complete related to their overall assignments. The assignments reflect this with a graduated emphasis on early learning development and the wide variety of ways children can be challenged and stimulated. The students are also encouraged to be self motivated and to self evaluate their progress.

## **Family Evaluation: Stage 1**

We ask the parents to complete an evaluation form at the end of each practicum. Families are sent these prior to the commencement of each practicum to allow the families plenty of time to be familiar with the areas we are asking them to especially consider. These are useful for the tutors to help identify each student's strengths and weaknesses. Any problems can then be given special attention to assist the student and ensure their progress. Students are also asked to complete a self evaluation of each placement.

Please ensure the student brings this back to the College by the Monday following completion of practicum to enable staff to debrief with the student.

## **Costs:**

There will be no cost involved in having a student except that the student will have meals in your home if they coincide with the times they are present.

## **Cars:**

We strongly recommend that you do not get a student to use her car to transport your children. We are not able to guarantee that the car would have safety arrangements suitable for young children, and we do not wish to see our students placed in a situation that could have regrettable consequences. We also prefer that students are not asked to drive a family vehicle as they are not familiar with local traffic, and insurance may be an issue.

## **Smoking and Alcohol:**

We expect our students to refrain from both while on practicum.

## **Tutor Visit**

The College programme has been organised for tutors to visit the student's on placement. You will be contacted prior to the visit to arrange a time.

## **Thank You**

We hope you find your time with our students rewarding and enjoyable. Our students love the energy and enthusiasm of working with young children and appreciate this opportunity to share your family life. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to telephone the College Practicum Co-ordinator.

Kind Regards

Deb Jones  
(03) 3653-153 ext 230  
Email [djones@teacher.co.nz](mailto:djones@teacher.co.nz)