

Early Years Overview

Our Early years Program includes a half-day community experience as part of the mandatory curriculum. Your community visit is designed to allow you to observe community services that serve preschool children and their families. At these visits you should be able to interact with children, parents, care providers and community-based early childhood professionals and reflect how primary health care can collaborate with these services to serve young children and their families. Please get in touch with your assigned program to arrange your half-day experience as soon as possible.

You need to prepare a one-page report of your experience to bring to your second Early Years teaching session. The report should give brief information about the site, the range of services that you observed, the benefits that you saw for families and how the service you saw could enhance services delivered by a physician.

Attendance at all sessions is mandatory and forms part of your final evaluation. Failure to attend the sessions and clinical visits may result in an unsatisfactory evaluation. Please ensure that you sign attendance sheets at each session.

OBJECTIVES

The student shall demonstrate knowledge in the following areas;

1. The importance of interplay of “nature” and “nurture” in neurodevelopment.
2. The importance of parenting in child development, plus risks to adequate parenting and intervention strategies
3. Factors that adversely affect neurodevelopment from preconception through the early years as well as interventions of prevention or modification
4. The use of clinical “tools” to facilitate assessment and record keeping during pre and post natal life
5. The role of other health professionals in promotion and remediation of neurodevelopment issues. An interdisciplinary approach is stressed.
6. Clinical skills needed to assess for risk factors and developmental delays and in developing a plan to address them

Format	Number	Duration	Notes
Teaching Sessions	2	½ day each	Workshop format with some formal presentation, case discussion and video clips for demonstration
Site Visit	1	½ day	Site visit to an Ontario Early Years Centre or other program of Early Childhood services