

AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY

Course Syllabus

The Art of Kid Whispering: Reaching the Inside Kid

Psychology or Special Education 630CF

Graduate course; 3 semester hours of credit

Instructor of Record: Mark D. Freado, M.A.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course addresses the developing capacity of care-givers to communicate with young people in ways that promote understanding, cooperation and trust. The most effective communication skill is listening. The Art of Kid Whispering involves skills to recognize and infer meaning and needs in the communication of a young person and to be able to respond in ways that address the essential elements in that communication. Many important elements of communication occur beyond or beneath language. The ability to listen around words that are spoken using visual and other auditory cues is critical to effectively communicating with young people who need support and guidance by caring adults. The course meets two days (approximately 16 hours) with supplemental reading, writing, and activities required.

RATIONALE

The most important skill in any relationship is the ability to listen effectively. Effective listening involves our ability to not only hear and understand the words that are spoken but also the listen beyond the words, where clues to the full meaning of communication lies. Traditional approaches may have an adult in an authoritarian role demanding action or respect from a young person. Enlightened approaches will have an adult in an authoritative role; someone confident and competent in their role, able and willing to be flexible and creative in approaching problems with young people. Authoritarian approaches are less concerned with the needs and interests of young people and more concerned with compliance. Authoritative approaches are more concerned with engaging the young person in a manner that fosters understanding and recognizing that teachable moments are more likely gained following a reachable moment. Recognizing the implications of pain and trauma on the development of young people affords caring adults more opportunities to infer meaning in their communication. Providing opportunities for young people to gain insight into the events of their lives provides a strong platform from which they can grow. The pathway to resilience comes from within. Kid Whispering helps young people find their way along that path.

REQUIRED READINGS

The required book is The Art of Kid Whispering: Reaching the Inside Kid (2015) written and copyrighted by J. C. Chambers and Mark Freado. There will be other assigned readings that can be accessed on-line or will be provided during the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will learn:

1. the concept of Kid Whispering; a positive strength-based, child-focused approach to communicating with youth and children in need.
2. the varied dimensions of significant communication.
3. the strategies to connect, clarify and restore with the young person in conflict.

4. to recognize and capitalize on opportunities for reachable moments with young people.
5. the implications and effects of trauma on young people.
6. the meaning and significance of costumes in the ways young people communicate.
7. the meaning and significance of the inside kid.
8. the role of Kid Whispering in helping young people self-regulate.
9. how to engage young people and gain relational trust.
10. the use of clarifying, deciphering and responding skills to enhance a young person's capacity to reason.

COURSE TOPICS

1. Understanding childhood and adolescent development
 - a. Understanding traditional developmental stages and needs that must be met
 - b. Understanding emotional development based on the work of Mary M. Wood
 - c. The presence and implications of Adverse Childhood Experiences
2. Positive Youth Development Science
 - a. Circle of Courage and the Cal Farley Model of Leadership and Service
 - b. Principles of Re-EDucation
 - c. Strategies for Healing Trauma
3. Talking and listening to the child
 - a. Effective listening
 - b. Enlisting the young person as the primary expert on him or herself
 - c. Effective responding skills
4. Using the data to restore
 - a. Building strengths and support
 - b. Interventions that build inner strength
 - c. Marking progress one action at a time

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some of the above topics be omitted or covered in less detail. Others may be added as participant needs dictate.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

All requirements/assignments are to be submitted to the instructor within 30 days of the last day of training. Permission from the instructor is necessary to extend this deadline. E-mailed assignments are accepted; for the purposes of this course: markfreado@calfarley.org and events@cflearning.org.

Requirements

1. Fully participate during 2 days of training, and complete **in class projects** including: *three quizzes on the topics covered, a case study analysis, role play participation and a written article review and presentation (article provided by the instructor).*
2. **Out of class projects:** Keep extemporaneous notes during the course. These may be handwritten notes. Complete one take-home assignment given during the first class session and completed by the second day of class.
3. In a **minimum of a three full page paper**, summarize what you learned in the class, what you will share with others (i.e., your students and colleagues) and questions that remain. Or:
 1. you may select a related topic presented in the course and do a traditional library paper on that topic (minimum three full page paper, excluding reference page).
 2. use Kid Whispering skills in your work with a young person and summarize that interaction based on what was learned in the course (minimum three full page paper, excluding reference page).

Registration

Registration happens at the time of the training. Payment is due at the time of registration. Please submit your registration form and payment to your instructor to be mailed to **CF Learning, PO Box 650, Lennox, South Dakota 57039** or faxed to **1-605-836-7101, Attn: Wendy**. Questions can be directed to your instructor or to **Wendy Beukelman at 605-744-0116** or via email to events@cflearning.org.

Registration Cost

Payment is due at the time of registration. The three hours of graduate credit is **\$300.00** (US dollars). Cash is not accepted. Checks, money orders payable to **CF Learning** and credit cards (Visa, MasterCard or Discover) are accepted.

Grading

Assignments will be graded using the following schedule:

A+ =95+	A =91-94	A- =88-90
B+ =83-87	B =80-82	C+ =75-79
C =65-74	D =50-64	F =below 50

Participants who successfully complete these requirements earn three (3) semester hours of graduate workshop credit, graded with an A-F letter grade. All requirements are to be submitted within 30 days of the last day of the course to your instructor. Your instructor will let you know if they prefer a hard copy or an electronic copy. **Requesting a grading extension:** If additional time is needed to complete the work a one-time extension may be requested. Contact your instructor to get permission for an extension. Work will be due no later than the middle of the next semester (March 15, July 15 or October 15). If the work is not submitted by the due date, a grade of F is automatically given.

Transcripts

After final grades are submitted, the students receive a grade report from Augustana University. Official transcripts must be requested in writing by the student to Augustana University Office of the Registrar, 2001 S. Summit Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57197 or visit www.augie.edu.

Academic Policies/ Honor Code:

For the Augustana University Academic Honor Code, please follow this link:

<http://www.augie.edu/about/college-offices-and-affiliates/academic-affairs-office/honor-code>

For the complete list of Augustana University Policies and Procedures, please follow this link:

<http://www.augie.edu/policy-and-procedures>

For questions or concerns, please contact **CF Learning** at events@cflearning.org or call **605-744-0116**.

Registrations and payments are to be mailed to CF Learning, Attn: Wendy Beukelman, PO Box 650, Lennox, South Dakota 57039.