Careers in Child Welfare

So you want to become a Child Welfare Professional?

Child welfare professionals are focused on improving the lives of children. They can work for a variety of social services agencies, including Child Protective Services or private, non-profit organizations.

General Requirements for Child Welfare Professionals

Most child welfare professionals are required to have at least a bachelor’s degree in a field such as social work, psychology, or sociology. But ideally child welfare professionals will hold a BSW and/or an MSW.

A Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) is a four-year degree that prepares students for entry-level practice in social work. Students will learn basic skills for working with diverse, poor, and oppressed individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities.

A Master’s degree of Social Work (MSW) is a two-year graduate degree that will combine coursework with hands-on field experience. A master’s degree is typically required for positions in schools, health, and clinical settings. Supervisory or managerial positions also usually require an advanced degree.

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future”
~President John F. Kennedy

Helpful Tips

- Gain as much experience as possible by volunteering with various child welfare agencies & organizations
- Start your own fundraiser or volunteer program at school
- Find mentors in the field
- Conduct school research projects and write papers on areas in child welfare that interest you
- Talk with professionals and professors who work in the child welfare field
- Learn as much as you can about the field and research about child welfare – knowledge is power!

For enquiries about the University of Houston Child Welfare Education Project, please contact Dr. Monit Cheung at mcheung@uh.edu or visit our CWEP Website at: http://www.sw.uh.edu/community/cwep/prospective-students/index.php