

Student Name:

Date Completed:

Mental Illness

With regards to practicing in child welfare, it is not uncommon to work with parents and/or children who have mental health issues. Mental illness is complex and diverse and often presents a serious problem for children and parents if left untreated.

1. Meet with your supervisor and inquire about the number of cases in your unit that currently have mental health issues indicated as a safety concern. Once you have this information, record it below.

_____ Percentage of cases with Mental Illness

2. Observe a co-worker on a visit for a case that you have been assigned to shadow, that is involved with child welfare primarily due to issues caused by mental illness. If your supervisor agrees, you may instead have your co-worker observe you.
3. With the figure you obtained above and the observations you made while shadowing or conducting the visit, go to the Internet and research the impact of mental illness on families. There are different approaches you can take concerning the completion of this assignment. Although there may be many articles that address this subject matter, feel free to choose the article that interests you most.
4. Write a brief summary (3-4 paragraphs) regarding the content in the article. Cite the article name and the reference number so that your supervisor will have the information to debrief with you:

I discussed the following with my supervisor regarding the impact of mental illness on children and families: