Exploring Our Roots: A Child and Youth Care Perspective on Parenting

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Abstract

Child and Youth Care (CYC) students are introduced to a number of theoretical frameworks that describe and explain the changes and transformational processes that take place from the moment of birth and long into the future lifespan. From the first day of class CYC students are encouraged to not only develop a sound understanding of all the major human development theoretical frameworks, but to self-reflect on how their personal family histories have influenced who they are as human beings. As a result, they learn to understand and appreciate the impact of their family histories on their values, traditions, belief systems, and future parenting styles. Hence, the purpose of this course-based qualitative research study is to investigate the potential influence CYC education has on CYC students’ perceived beliefs and attitudes regarding their future parenting style as a direct result of their CYC learning experience.