

What areas of expertise does a child and family social worker have?

This tool is an aid to self-reflection, which you might want to use for an annual self-assessment or guide in professional development.

Please don't let the length of the list overwhelm you. It reflects the broad spectrum of the social work role. An expert may only score 5 in one or two areas, for example. From our own research, we know that many social workers lack confidence in many of the areas listed.

How to rate your areas of expertise

- 1 I have a basic knowledge and/or experience gained in this area from early education/training, but I don't feel confident enough to be able to talk about this in any depth and have little or no experience of this in practice.
- 2 I have a basic knowledge where I have had specific education/ training/ experience in this area although it was some time ago and I feel that my knowledge/experience is not very up to date.
- 3 I have had recent knowledge/training/experience in this area and I would feel able to talk about this topic to colleagues, although I would need to familiarise myself with practice/policy/research to feel competent to give good evidence in court.
- 4 I have an interest in this particular area and I have studied the evidence base at post-qualifying level and/or have developed particular professional competence in this area in which I regularly practice. I am aware of the current research/policy/practice in this area and I would feel confident in being able to apply my knowledge analytically in giving evidence in court.
- 5 All of 4 applies and, in addition, I have a masters level or above in this area and/or I am highly knowledgeable about the practice/policy procedure in this area, being seen by colleagues as having expertise. I would feel highly confident in giving evidence in court around this topic as my competence is endorsed by qualifications/ professional standing.

Asylum-seeking children	1	2	3	4	5
Attachment	1	2	3	4	5
Behaviour	1	2	3	4	5
Care planning	1	2	3	4	5
Child abuse: emotional	1	2	3	4	5
Child abuse: neglect	1	2	3	4	5
Child abuse: physical	1	2	3	4	5
Child abuse: sexual	1	2	3	4	5
Child and family assessment	1	2	3	4	5
Child development	1	2	3	4	5
Child-care law	1	2	3	4	5
Child-centred approaches (maintaining this in complex assessments)	1	2	3	4	5
Children’s rights	1	2	3	4	5
Communicating with children and young people	1	2	3	4	5
Community (ie, communities of interest as well as geographic)	1	2	3	4	5
Conflict (dealing with)	1	2	3	4	5
Contact	1	2	3	4	5
Disability: physical	1	2	3	4	5
Disability: emotional	1	2	3	4	5
Diversity	1	2	3	4	5
Domestic abuse	1	2	3	4	5
Drug misuse (children and young people)	1	2	3	4	5
Drug misuse (parental)	1	2	3	4	5
Ecological approaches (environmental factors that affect children’s lives)	1	2	3	4	5
Empowerment	1	2	3	4	5
Equal opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Ethics	1	2	3	4	5
Evidence-informed practice	1	2	3	4	5

Family relationships	1	2	3	4	5
Family support	1	2	3	4	5
General theories of adult learning	1	2	3	4	5
Health and well-being	1	2	3	4	5
Identity	1	2	3	4	5
Illness (impact of)	1	2	3	4	5
Interagency and multi-professional working	1	2	3	4	5
Intervention in family life	1	2	3	4	5
Learning difficulties	1	2	3	4	5
Looked after children	1	2	3	4	5
Loss	1	2	3	4	5
Needs	1	2	3	4	5
Parental mental health	1	2	3	4	5
Parental responsibility (rights and duties)	1	2	3	4	5
Parenting capacity (and capacity to change)	1	2	3	4	5
Problem solving	1	2	3	4	5
Racism	1	2	3	4	5
Refugee children	1	2	3	4	5
Report writing	1	2	3	4	5
Resilience	1	2	3	4	5
Risk assessment and management	1	2	3	4	5
Service user involvement	1	2	3	4	5
Significant harm	1	2	3	4	5
Social exclusion	1	2	3	4	5
Social policy	1	2	3	4	5
Social work theory	1	2	3	4	5
Therapeutic interventions	1	2	3	4	5
Young carers	1	2	3	4	5
Other (please state)	1	2	3	4	5
