

Parenting Manual

Collaborative Project

Project Objective:

Develop a parenting manual to disseminate information to new parents that is consistent with classic and contemporary developmental theory

Project Instructions

In the United States a license is required to drive a car, shoot a gun, or go fishing, but there are no requirements for becoming a parent. Using what was learned in Module C regarding the developmental theories, students will work in a small group to develop a parenting manual to be used as a resource for individuals that are entering into parenthood. The Parenting Manual should be grounded in classical and contemporary developmental theories, not opinion. This is a 2 part project to be completed over two weeks.

Timeline: Students should begin coordinating this project prior to Week 7 by developing a timeline that outlines responsibilities and due dates. This timeline **MUST** be completed by the end of Week 6 to ensure that everybody is aware of their responsibilities at the start of this project. The timeline should be agreed upon by all active students. Any student who does not participate in development of the timeline must still adhere to the established timeline. At the end of these instructions is a suggested timeline that students can follow, or groups can develop their own timeline. Regardless this timeline must be coordinated in the Group Discussion area and clearly visible to the group.

Week 7: Students will work in small groups this week to create the content for the Parenting Manual, which must address cognitive and emotional growth and development from birth through adolescence. Groups can assign individuals to become “experts” for each developmental theory or a group can work as a unit to gain a better understanding of these theories. By the end of this week students should have a strong understanding of what growth and development occurs from birth through adolescence and begin to develop a format for the Parenting Manual.

There is not one way to complete this project, so groups are given considerable creative freedom in developing both the content and appearance of the Manual. For example, the content of the Manual may be presented as:

Group A composes common questions and answers that parents might encounter.

Group B presents significant milestones for different developmental ages

Group C presents helpful hints to deal with kids of different ages

Groups are not limited to these options but may use them in developing the content of their Manual.

Week 8: At the start of this week each group should have a solid draft of the content of their manual. This week the groups will finalize the content **AND** need to put the content of the Parenting Manual together into a format for disseminating this valuable tool.

The final appearance of the Parenting Manual can vary, depending on the content included in the Manual as well as the creative skills of the group. A possible format for the Manual might be:

- Text document (RTF, DOC, or PDF)
- Web page
- PowerPoint
- Flash Media
- Video/Short Film
- 3-fold Brochure

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APA Citations

Students are expected to submit original work and since this is a group project it is everybody's responsibility to ensure that each group member has submitted original work. That means it is your responsibility to review each person's draft content for accuracy as well as originality. Each student is expected to appropriately cite any sources used in development of the Parenting Manual. Any student submitting plagiarized work will receive an automatic zero for the project.

Student Scores

Students will be scored using the grading rubric below. Students that are not actively contributing to the project will be penalized accordingly. Keep in mind that this is a group project therefore you are expected to work together with all of your group members to develop this Parenting Manual and therefore you will be scored on your collaborative abilities in addition to your individual contributions during both weeks of the project.

Grading Rubric

This project is worth up to 50 points and each student will be evaluated using the questions below.

- Did the student actively participate in the discussion about the content of the Manual? (Week 7)
- Did the student demonstrate a strong understanding of the developmental theories? (Week 7)
- Was the student actively involved in the timeline and development of the Manual? (Week 7 & 8)
- Did the student effectively collaborate with others in the group? (Week 7 & 8)
- Is the Manual an effective tool for disseminating information to the public? (Overall Manual Score)

Each of these questions will be scored using a 10-point Likert scale:

0.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
Not at all Minimal Average Good Very Good

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Project Timeline

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

Group Members Names & Assigned Topics

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Week 7 Goals: Develop the content for the Parenting Manual

1. *Students should know their responsibilities by the start of this week.*
2. **Wednesday** - *I suggest that each student post a first draft of their content in the **Group Locker** or **Discussion** forum.*
3. **Friday** - *Each student should review at least one other student's draft and post comments.*
4. **Sunday** - *Each student should then post a second draft of their content in the **Group Locker** or **Discussion** forum.*

Week 8 Goals: Finalize the content and put together into Parenting Manual format

1. **Monday** - *If the group has already established a format, go to step 3. If the format has not been chosen yet (e.g. brochure, PPT, etc.) each student should submit their suggestions by Monday and the group should agree on a format by Tuesday.*
2. **Tuesday** – *Person that is responsible for pulling the content into the Manual should be identified by now.*
3. **Wednesday** – *All content should have their finished content posted.*
4. **Thursday** - *Posted draft of the Manual in the **Group Locker** or **Discussion** forum.*
5. **Friday** - *Each student should review the draft Manual to make sure the agreed upon content is accurate and understandable. In addition each student should review the format and provide any comments for improvement.*
6. **Saturday** - *A final draft of the Manual should be posted for final comments.*
7. **Sunday** - *The completed project must be submitted in the **Dropbox** no later than 11:59pm*