



Preparing Teachers to Work Effectively with Children Who Are Homeless

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Lesson Plan: Working with Homeless Children and their Families

This module is designed for pre-service and in-service teachers. It takes about 3 hours.

Goals:

Participants will be aware of the current facts on homeless children (who, where, how many).

Participants will be able to describe the main provisions of the McKinney-Vento Act and the teacher's role in implementing the law.

Participants will be able to describe how homelessness affects children's learning as well as their physical, socio-emotional, and cognitive development.

Participants will be able to describe specific actions that teachers can do to mitigate the harmful effects of homelessness on children's learning and social development.

Participants will be able to advocate for the needs of homeless children.

Procedure:

1. Distribute case studies randomly. Give students a few minutes to fill in their ideas.
2. Discussion:
 - a. How common is it for children to be homeless?
 - b. Where would you usually find homeless children?
 - c. Can homeless children attend school?
 - d. What causes families to be homeless?
 - e. How does homelessness affect children?
3. Show ***My Own Four Walls*** DVD (available at www.hearus.us)
4. Allow a moment for film to sink in, then ask for reflections on the film. Ask:
 - a. What do homeless children need?
 - b. What do they need from their teachers?
5. Presentation: ***Effective Teachers for Homeless and Highly Mobile Children***



a teacher education curriculum to raise awareness of and sensitivity to homeless children

6. Case studies in groups; case study reports. Participants find others with the same case study. Each group decides on appropriate responses.
7. Raising awareness and sensitivity in the classroom with children's literature. (Read and/or display relevant children's books. Solicit suggestions from Participants on how to use these books in the classroom.)
8. Distribute "Signs of Homelessness."
9. Return to opening discussion questions.

Assessment:

1. Case study reports
2. Responses to discussion questions (opening compared to closing). These questions could be given as a survey at the beginning and end of the module.

Materials:

Case studies (hard copy, one per student, assorted cases)

Video: ***My Own Four Walls***, available through HEAR US Inc. www.hearus.us

Presentation: ***Effective Teachers for Homeless and Highly Mobile Children*** (and projection equipment)

Children's Books on Homelessness (see "Books for Children" for suggestions)

"Signs of Homelessness" Handout



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HEAR US...giving voice & visibility to homeless kids...