Applying the Sample Essay Plan
The essay plan template may not mean much to you until you read the essay written in response to the task. By matching the different sections of the plan with the essay you will see how this essay has been structured and planned. For example, when you look at the plan and the essay, you will find the sentences in the section ‘Main purpose / point of the essay’ at the end of the first paragraph in the introduction.

Essay Plan

**Essay task:**

*Critically analyse the role of the MCH nurse in the care of a child with a diagnosed developmental delay other than autism. Your analysis should be supported by relevant literature and should include working in partnership with the family.*

**Essay questions / paraphrase:** What is the role of the MCH nurse following the diagnosis of developmental delay? What is the impact of development delay? How can and why would the MCH nurse work in partnership with the family? What is reported in the literature?

**Main purpose / point of the essay**

In the context of the impact on the family, this essay explores the question of what happens following a diagnosis of developmental delay. MCH nursing practice has a role to play in supporting families beyond the diagnosis.

**Definitions**

- Developmental delay
- Roles of the MCHN

**References**

- DEECD, 2010b

**Arguments**

**Evidence**

- Some families stressed, some thrive
- Impact -> intense emotions
- Diagnosis a crisis time
- Every aspect of family life affected
- Important to empower family
- How family treated at time of child’s initial diagnosis has long term impacts
- Health professionals can give framework of optimism

**Topic: Initial impact on the whole family**

**References**

- Head & Abbeduto, 2007, p. 293
- DCDR, 2008, p.13
- Sen & Yurtsever, 2006, p.239
- Bailey, 2007, p.291
- Blann, 2005, p. 265
- DEECD, 2010a, p.27
- Kearney & Griffin, 2001, p.589
- Mares et al., 2005, p.
was made can impact on the role of the MCHN and possible relationship with the family.

### Topic: Ongoing needs of the child

Children with developmental delay can have the same basic needs as all children, but they also have particular needs.

- Parents’ grief can affect establishment of the attachment relationship
- Complex educational and child care needs list of needs eg language
- Behavioural problems

Existing relationship or not before diagnosis

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Mares et al., 2005, pp 97-8
Reichman, Corman & Noonan, 2008, p. 680
DCDR, 2008, p.11
Baker, Blacher & Olsson, 2005, p.587
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The MCHN will need to look beyond children’s basic needs.

- MCHN can provide anticipatory guidance
- Limits of the Key Ages and Stages

DEECD, 2010b

### Topic: Ongoing needs of the family and the ripple effect on siblings and extended family

The impact on the siblings of children with developmental delay should not be overlooked.

- Effects on families include stress, parenting discrepancies, negative reactions from extended family, difficulty with school interactions...
- Can lead to social isolation
- List areas siblings need support
- For some siblings, care of the child may become lifelong

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Dyson, 2010, p.43
Thurgate, 2005b, p.40
McCullough & Simon, 2011, p.320-321
Reichman et al., 2008, p. 680
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The MCHN can support family members to develop responsive and positive relationships with their child with developmental delay from as early age as possible.

- Promote resilience
- Make opportunities for parents and siblings to share feelings
- Answer questions, reassure...
- Recommend, refer...

DEECD, 2011

DCDR, 2008, pp 13 - 18

### Topic: Costs to the family

### Topic: Working together - from expert to partnership model

### Topic: Moving forward as a family

### Conclusion

When they need to share and be heard, the MCHN may be the only person that mothers and families can go to, and as such, this is a vital role in the health and wellbeing of the family.