

## Respectful Practices in Social Work

Michaela Rogers and colleagues (2020) identify several fundamental values that social workers should be aware of and practice with their service users, families, and other organizations they are involved with. They include:

- Respect
- Acceptance
- Individuality
- Honesty and integrity
- Equality

This worksheet helps you reflect on whether you remain in touch with your values and the principles expected from a social worker.

Think of several recent examples of interactions with clients, families, and other organizations, and consider the following (modified from Rogers et al., 2020):

**Describe your respect:** Were you polite, courteous, warm, and approachable? Did you give them the attention they deserved? If not, how were you?

**Describe your acceptance:** How well did you accept people with different beliefs and values from your own? Did you remain interested in their story?

**Describe treating the person as an individual:** Did you attempt to understand the person and their history? Did you make every effort to learn their story and the names of the people you met?

**Describe how you demonstrated integrity:** Were you professional, open, honest, and trustworthy?

**Describe how you treated each person equally:** Did you treat each person fairly and equally, providing fair access to your time and resources?

A regular check-in to ensure high standards are maintained and values remain clear will ensure you stand out for your professionalism.

## References

- Rogers, M., Whitaker, D., Edmondson, D., & Peach, D. (2020). *Developing skills & knowledge for social work practice*. Los Angeles: SAGE.