

PRESERVICE FOR FOSTER, ADOPTIVE, KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

901 *Orientation and Overview*

This workshop provides an overview of the child welfare system and examines the differences between foster care, adoption, and kinship care. Participants receive information about the needs of waiting children as well as the process of becoming a caregiver.

902 *Teambuilding*

This workshop discusses the history of foster care/adoption and examines the role of the foster/ adoptive/ kinship caregiver within that system. Information is shared about the effective use of teams to serve children.

903 *Child Development and the Impact of Abuse and Neglect*

This workshop examines the dynamics of child maltreatment. The trainer also seeks to develop empathy for the birthparent or caregiver who has abused or neglected a child. Participants view a video about an abusive birthparent, and they view a set of slides which depicts the signs of child maltreatment. This workshop gives participants an overview of normal child development and examines the impact of abuse and neglect on child development.

904 *Attachment and Separation*

This workshop demonstrates normal, healthy attachment and the impact on attachment of separation from primary parents, siblings, and other attachment figures. Participants also learn methods to reduce the trauma to children who have experienced separations from significant others.

905 *Discipline*

This workshop examines the reasons for behavioral problems among foster and adopted children. The workshop also explains the agency policy regarding corporal punishment and the underlying reasons for that policy. Finally, participants receive information on positive ways to manage behavior including natural and logical consequences, contracting, and rewards.

906 *Preventing and De-escalating Crisis*

This workshop explores the triggers that might generate feelings of anger or fear in the caregiver or the child, resulting in family conflict. Techniques to resolve conflict through win/win, rather than win/lose, negotiation, will be presented and practiced. Participants will learn strategies to prevent crisis from developing and will learn methods to de-escalate crisis, if necessary, while keeping all family members safe.

907 *Cultural Issues in Placement*

This workshop presents an overview of culture and the ways in which our values and codes of conduct are impacted by culture. Participants learn to separate culture from race and learn to identify the many and complex ingredients of cultural identity. Caregivers will also learn methods to more successfully parent a child from a culture different than their own.

908 *Working with Primary Families*

This workshop provides information about the losses experienced by birth families, expected behaviors of grieving birth parents, and ways to work effectively with birth families along a continuum of contact. A birth parent speaks to the training group about his/her experiences with foster care.

909 *Caring for Children Who Have Been Sexually Abused*

This workshop examines the definition and dynamics of sexual abuse of children. The workshop also prepares prospective parents to develop an awareness of the characteristics of caregivers that lead to success in parenting children who have been sexually abused.

910 *Effects of Caregiving on the Family*

This workshop examines the impact of foster care/ adoption/ kinship care on the family system. The workshop also enables prospective parents to develop effective coping strategies and survival plans.

911 *Permanency Issues for Children*

This workshop examines the effect of long-term separation from the birth family (either by adoption or long term foster care) on children. The workshop will explain some “triggers” that may exacerbate difficulties of children experiencing these long-term separations.

912 *Permanency Issues for Families*

This workshop examines the impact of adoption issues for adoptive parents on the family system. The workshop also explores techniques of talking with the child(ren) about their adoptive status and difficult birth histories. This workshop will present the typical stages of adoptive family adjustment following placement. Finally, information about post adoption services is shared with prospective parents.