

STATEWIDE TRAINING

March 2025

All trainings are open to parents across Massachusetts and are provided **FREE** of charge.



PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGE:
We heard your feedback. We have added closed captioning and multiple language options for the presentations. We are pleased to now offer a SINGLE REGISTRATION option for monthly training! Instead of selecting and registering for each session independently, the link below will bring you to the Zoom registration page which includes all training events being presented this month. You can select the trainings that are of interest to you, all at once... Register using the link below.

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday 3/04
Finance and Tax Information for Foster and Adoptive Parents,
Helen Leue
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Tax season is here! Do you have questions? Join us to get answers! A foster parent herself, Helene will help to answer any questions you may have and provide helpful financial tips!

Monday 3/10
Maximizing the Day,
Lisa Bingly
12:00 - 2:00 pm

Parents work hard to make connections when children come into the home. Meaningful connections are about the quality of time you spend together. We will review typical routines to identify the opportunities for learning and relationship building throughout your day. The session will include information for infants through teens. Host - Lisa Bingley, MEd, is a Developmental Specialist. Before joining early intervention, Lisa spent over 25 years working with families in childcare settings. Lisa has taught college courses and specialized in care and program planning classes.

Tuesday, 3/11
Understanding and Caring for Teens: A Roadmap for When You Feel Lost
Kelly Petravicz
10:30am - 12:00 pm

This training will provide an overview of teen development including: the teen brain, behavior, friendships, choices, and emotions. We will also discuss ways to support and understand your teen. Hosted by Kelly Petravicz, LCSW, is an Early Intervention Program Director.

Thursday, 3/13
The Impact of Loss on Attachment,
Michael Medeiros
6:30 - 8:00 pm

Loss, and grief are inherent parts of the foster care experience, and complex issues associated with dealing with loss impact everyone: children, birth parents/families of origin, and foster families. Michael Medeiros is a foster/adoptive parent with decades of experience training other foster parents. He uses real life experiences and provides strategies that can be easily implemented.

Monday, 3/17
Talking to Kids About Trauma,
Gwen Bass
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Talking to foster and adopted kids about their often complex family stories can be difficult. Many caregivers hope to have honest conversations that help kids understand their unique family journey and process past experiences, but it can be hard to know what to share, when, and how. In this workshop, we discuss strategies for explaining strained relationships with warmth and generosity, using language that kids can relate to. From embracing diversity to fostering a sense of belonging, this session will offer tools for navigating these conversations with confidence and compassion so children learn to understand and tell their own stories. Dr. Gwen Bass, and her team, provide detailed relevant information rooted in their own experiences.

Tuesday, 3/18
LGBTQ+ Identity, Expression, and Transgender 101 (Part 2),
GBPFLAG
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Understand LGBTQ+ terminology and the practice of inclusive language in this training. Participants will be able to distinguish between gender identity, gender expression, sex assigned at birth, and sexual orientation as separate but intersecting aspects of one's identity. Exploring Transgender identity, participants will practice pronoun usage and allyship techniques to support gender-expansive individuals. Engage in thought-provoking discussions to enhance your skill in embracing inclusive language and fostering affirmation. This training equips you with the tools to cultivate an attitude of respect and understanding for LGBTQ+ identities. Training is presented by, Greater Boston PFLAG: your partner in creating inclusive spaces that radiate belonging and empowerment for all, regardless of races, ethnicities, genders, sexualities, abilities, and beliefs.

Tuesday, 3/25
Addressing Family Stress and Depression Workshop,
Courtney Begley
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Does your family have the strategies they need to address life's stressors? By being knowledgeable about self-care and mental health, your family can get and stay on the path to wellness. This virtual workshop is facilitated by FFDA staff and delivered by a licensed mental health professional. Participants learn how to identify symptoms of stress in themselves and family members, manage stress as a family, respond when symptoms become "more than stress," and get help for themselves or a family member. Families for Depression Awareness (FFDA) is a nonprofit organization that helps families recognize and cope with depression and bipolar disorder to get people well and prevent suicides. FFDA was founded on the belief that caring family members play a powerful role in uniting their loved ones and ensuring that no one suffers alone with a mood disorder.

Wednesday, 3/26
Why Can't my Child Make Friends,
Donna Shea
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

This workshop explores the barriers to friendship that may be preventing a child from having positive peer relationships. We'll explore how to help a child recognize and overcome these barriers, the important role that adults play in social coaching and tips on how to teach children social independence and increase their social success. Donna Shea, Founder of The Peter Pan Center, is a social coach and educator. Since opening her center in 2002, she has worked to address the needs of families whose children are struggling with behavior and social challenges. Donna is a consultant to schools, parent groups, and human service agencies.