

STATEWIDE TRAINING

March 2024

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

Tuesday, 3/5
Maximize the Day
Lisa Bingley, MEd
7:30-9:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

Parents work hard to make connections when children come into the home. Meaningful connections are about the quality of time you spend together. This training will review typical routines to identify the opportunities for learning and relationship building throughout your day. 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.

Monday, 3/11
Tips and Tricks of Handwriting
Audrie Vantangoli
7:30-9:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

Join pediatric occupational therapist and owner of Get A Grip Occupational Therapy, Audrie Vantangoli, MOT, OTR/L, CPRCS, in presenting: Tips and Tricks of Handwriting. Feeling at a loss with your child's handwriting skills, especially in a world of technology, join this training to learn the "Tips and Tricks of Handwriting". This training will cover developmentally appropriate activities, strategies and expectations for your child to improve their writing skills.

Thursday, 3/14
Early Childhood Mental Health
Kelly Petravicz
7:30-9:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

Review of basic principles of infant/child mental health, attachment, temperament, and strategies for supporting the development of caregiver-child relationships. Review of understanding caregivers' temperament and attachment style. Hosted by Kelly Petravicz M.Ed., LICSW, CEIS, CEID.

Monday 3/18
Recovery and Repair After Conflict
Gwen Bass
7:30-9:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

All educators, foster and/or adoptive parents themselves, Dr. Gwen Bass, and her team, provide detailed relevant information rooted in their own experiences. Disagreements, meltdowns, and upsets occur in every family. Although they are often unpleasant, tantrums and conflicts provide opportunities to strengthen relationships and deepen self-awareness. Explore tactics for finding meaningful resolutions and for coming back together after tough moments.

Wednesday 3/20
Supporting & Maintaining Family Connections
Michael J. Medeiros
6:30-8:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

This session centers on a "Shared Parenting" approach as we highlight the importance of maintaining family connections for children placed in foster care. Allowing children to feel a sense of wholeness, respecting what family represents, and building alliances with the family of origin are essential to nurturing a child's sense of well-being. Hosted by trainer, foster and adoptive parent - Michael Medeiros.

Thursday 3/21
Racial, Intergenerational, and Historical Trauma
Ruth Bodain and Shavon Fulcher
7:30-9:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

An understanding of racial, and intergenerational and historical trauma provides a broader and more comprehensive view of the forces and experiences that impact our children and their families. We will discuss how this understanding can be used to promote healing and resilience. Training hosted by Ruth Bodain and Shavon Fulcher. Ruth is currently self-employed as a trainer, mediator, and consultant. Ruth has extensive experience conducting training on the impact of trauma and trauma informed practices. Her personal experience as an adoptive mother of an older youth has informed her perspective of promoting resilience and growth through trauma responsive and healing centered approaches. Shavon is a trauma focused clinical social worker and has a private clinical practice working primarily with adults and offers therapeutic services in the fields of relationship counseling, gender identity, sexuality and racial identity.

[Register Here](#)

Saturday 3/23
Youth Mental Health First Aid
Katie Pfeiffer
11:00 am-4:00 pm

This is a Saturday Class

YMHFA is a 5-hour training that helps adults recognize, support, and refer youth who are experiencing mental health challenges or may be in crisis. This program is offered through the Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT) program at Family Services of the Merrimack Valley in Lawrence, MA. The program coordinator, Katie Pfeiffer, has been working in the mental health and suicide prevention field for three years and is passionate about each respective cause.

PLEASE NOTE: Registration is limited to 30 people and there is an hour of virtual pre-work that will need to be completed prior to this training date - 6 hours total for foster parent training hours - 4 CEUs also available

Wednesday 3/27
Belonging
Gaelin Elmore
7:30-9:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

Belonging is more than just a feeling. It's a place of existence that everyone is constantly searching and longing for. For youth in care, even more so. Due to the relational trauma and difficulties they have experienced, belonging can feel incredibly elusive and nonexistent. The biggest difference we can make in the life of youth is to create spaces, moments, memories, and relationships of belonging. We can create belonging for youth in care by showing them they matter, have value, and are an essential part of the lives of those around them. In this workshop, we will understand what belonging is, why it's essential, and how we can intentionally implement it in whatever role we play. Host Gaelin Elmore has the lived experience of being in the foster care system himself - making this is do not miss training opportunity.

Thursday, 3/28
Tax and Finances
Helene Leue
7:30-9:00 pm

[Register Here](#)

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!

UPCOMING TRAININGS OF INTEREST

What Can't My Child Make Friends? - 4/9 From 10:00 am-11:30 am - Hosted By: Donna Shea

Caring for Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) - Part 1 & 2 - May 2nd & 15th
From 7:00-9:00 pm
Hosted By: Barb Clark - Families Raising

Pride and Allyship - Learn About the History of Pride and How to Connect Your Child to and Support Them Through Pride Events - 5/20 7:30-9:00 pm



Nueva Oportunidad de Formación en Español

TCC Centrada en el trauma para servicios de acogida - 4/22 and 5/9 - 7:30-9:00 pm



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Resources for foster, pre-adoptive and kinship families