

Executive Summary

Course Title: The Adopted Family: How to Secure Successful Transitions

Target Audience: Both new and veteran child welfare adoption workers, line staff, supervisors, and support staff will benefit from this training. Other professionals working with fostered and adopted children, like teachers, therapists and child-care providers will also benefit from this training.

Course Description: Making a transition from one family to another makes attachment and connection a sensitive issue throughout life. Some symptoms of attachment sensitivity in kids are being bossy and controlling, lying, resisting authority, low self-esteem, poor impulse control, and lack of trust. This workshop will describe a continuum of attachment issues and assist participants in understanding strategies that promote secure attachment for children from infancy through adulthood. The focus will be on insight into children's experience and parents experience with concrete suggestions for helping professionals working with these populations and demonstrations of some rituals and rights of passage that help children and families form healthy relationships.

Outcome Objectives for Participants:

- Identify key features of the transition experience for children and parents
- Likely behavior outcomes for children who are reacting to transitions
- Assessment of pre-adoptive family readiness
- Suggestions for how to prepare families (birth and adoptive) and children for transition
- Suggestions for how to work with families (birth and adoptive) and children in transitions
- Specifics to prepare for and look for when racial differences are a factor
- Models for transitional ceremonies to use with families and children

Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...

BEFORE the training...

The supervisor will meet with the participant to review the executive summary and learning objectives. The trainee will identify a learning objective of interest and will prepare a list of questions and/or case studies for the trainer. The staff person will provide a brief summary of the training to identified employee.

AFTER the training...

Review the identified cases and ask the staff member to identify what changes s/he will make in the case plan based on the training. Ask the staff member to identify action items s/he placed in his/her Transfer of Learning Action Plan. Support staff member in implementing these actions and through the learning curve if problems occur.