



Adoptive & Foster Family Therapy Certificate Program

Course Learning Objectives

What you can expect to learn:

- Theoretical approaches for understanding the clinical issues associated with separation, loss, and trauma on children from the child welfare system coming into adoption, foster, and relative placements.
- To utilize a trauma-informed lens for understanding the impact of abuse trauma, and neglect on children as a framework for providing competent mental health treatment.
- To strengthen family integration and functioning by improving identity formation of family members, and claiming of their adopted, foster, or relative child.
- To build a therapeutic safety net in trauma treatment, including development of an individualized trauma-informed treatment plan.
- Therapeutic protocol to support and promote therapy with adopted/foster children and their families.
- The differences between typical child development and the signs and symptoms of development impacted by trauma.
- How trauma, abuse and neglect impact child neuro-development and the interventions that help children build resilience, self-efficacy and adaptive skills.
- To utilize a neuro-behaviorally informed assessment for evaluation, planning and developing accommodations.
- How trauma can effect a child's ability to regulate emotions and behaviors.
- Why traditional methods of behavior management are less effective with previously abused, neglected or traumatized child.
- To assist parents in moving past personalizing a child's behaviors through understanding it through a trauma-informed lens to promote emotional connection.
- To assist caregivers in managing common challenging behaviors such as enuresis/encopresis, stealing, lying and aggression that may arise in foster, adoptive and relative placements.
- To assist caregivers in contributing to the child's identity task and nurturing the trauma recovery process.
- To facilitate consultation meetings with parents to better understand the adaptive nature of their child's behavior and improve their child's regulation skills.
- To recognize the signs and stages of disruption and identifying interventions to increase placement stability.
- Interventions that promote placement stability in cross-cultural and transracial issues in adoption, foster, and relative placements.
- How to guide caregivers in understanding their own attachment styles and biases.
- Therapeutic techniques that enhance parent child attachment appropriate to a child's developmental stage.
- Post-adoption services/resources available to Oregon families and how to connect them to those services and supports.