

MODULE I: ORIENTATION TO FOSTER CARE, KINSHIP CARE, AND ADOPTION

Note Taking Guide

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Identify the goals of child welfare
- Explain the difference between foster care, kinship care, and adoption
- Determine whether or not to continue exploring foster care, kinship care, or adoption

Rules of the Road

Attendance:

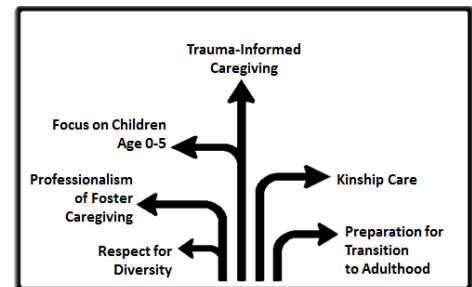
- Be on time
- Sign in
- Don't miss more than 15 minutes
- Must make up any sessions missed
- If you choose to stop, let your worker know why

Classroom behaviors:

- Respect diversity
- Keep confidentiality
- Manage electronic devices



Expectations about Foster Care and Adoption



Current Trends

Goals and Principles of Child Welfare

The fundamental principles of child welfare include:

- Protect children from harm
- Keep children with their families whenever possible.
- If children must be removed, work on strengthening the family immediately so the child can be returned.
- Place children in the least restrictive, most home-like setting as close to their own home as possible.
- All children will do better in permanent homes.



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Overarching Learning Objectives of Preservice

Each of the twelve modules of Preservice training has specific learning objectives related to the content presented during that module. In addition, there are six overarching learning objectives that are addressed throughout Preservice training.

These learning objectives include:

Participants can accurately self-assess if foster caregiving, kinship caregiving, or adoption is the right choice for their family.

Participants can describe the importance of the child welfare goals of safety, permanency, and well-being and recognize their role in supporting these goals for children in their home.

Participants can explain the importance of, and can recognize their role in, placement stability.

Participants can explain the importance of teaming with the worker, primary family, child, and others involved in the case, and can recognize their role on the team.

Participants can recognize the need to parent differently based upon the child's trauma history.

Participants can explain how respect for the diversity of the child and family impacts placement success and child welfare goals.

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The Nine Essential Elements of Trauma-Informed Caregiving (*Cut out and post in your home)

1. Recognize the impact trauma has had on your child.
2. Help your child to feel safe.
3. Help your child to understand and manage overwhelming emotions.
4. Help your child to understand and manage difficult behaviors.
5. Respect and support the positive, stable, and enduring relationships in the life of your child.
6. Help your child to develop a strength-based understanding of his or her life story.
7. Be an advocate for your child.
8. Promote and support trauma-focused assessment and treatment for your child.
9. Take care of yourself.

NCTSN.org

Grillo, C. A., Lott, D. A., & Foster Care Subcommittee of the Child Welfare Committee, National Child Traumatic Stress Network. (2010). *Caring for children who have experienced trauma: A workshop for resource parents – Facilitator’s Guide*. Los Angeles, CA & Durham, NC: National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.

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Individual Reflection

Please take a few minutes to reflect on what you have learned in this Preservice training and how the information applies to you. Give this sheet to the agency worker who is completing your homestudy.

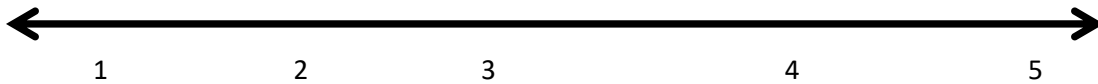
1. The goals of child welfare are safety, permanency, and well-being. In your own words, explain the meaning of each goal.

Safety

Permanency

Well-being

2. This module introduced you to the nine essential elements of trauma-informed caregiving. On a scale of 1-5 (with 1 being little understanding and 5 being full understanding), rate your current understanding of trauma-informed caregiving. Please explain your rating.



3. Which option – foster care, kinship care, or adoption – seems to fit your family best at this time? Why?
