

CHILD WELFARE ACADEMY

Kin + Resource Caregiver Training Calendar May through August 2026



Welcome!

Our training is provided for all Maryland Resource Parents and Kin Caregivers working directly through their County DSS. All trainings are FREE.

REGISTER HERE - <https://theinstitute.ce21.com/>
CLICK JOIN the RPT (Resource Kinship) Group
New Accounts May take 2 business days to activate

IMPORTANT POLICIES

ALL Trainings are virtual. In person events are noted.

Attendees must attend the entire class for credit.

Camera use is required if sharing a device with another person.

Due to sensitive content and confidentiality, please use headphones if near children.

May

Fri 5/15 12:00-1:00pm (1 hour)	MRPA Lunch and Learn What is the Maryland Resource Parent Association? Join Executive Director, Stefany Lang, to learn what MRPA is and what they do for the state's foster and kinship parents. Topics include how MRPA can answer questions and provide support, represent caregivers needs with state agencies, advocate for changes in policy and law, and support local resource parent groups.
Tue 5/26 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)	Children in Foster Care: Understanding the Need for Identify Formation This class seeks to help resource parents understand what is identify formation; why it's important for children who have experienced complex trauma and how to support the process of identify formation.
Thu 5/28 12:00-1:00pm (1 hour)	Top 10 Car Seat Mistakes Through this webinar, caregivers will be introduced to the most common mistakes related to car seat selection, installation, and harnessing errors. Participants will review misuse corrections and be able to ask individualized questions. Child passenger resources in Maryland will also be shared.

June

Thu 6/4 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)	What to Do When Your Child Lies, Steals and Hoards Food* For parents to understand how to help make sense of their child's behaviors, it is essential to understand what is behind the behavior. When children behave in this way, it is an indication
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* Indicates training that meets the Discipline/Behavior Requirement

** Indicates training that meets the Medication Management Requirement

^ Federally funded training from National Training and Development Curriculum (NTDC) released to the public for free in 6/2022

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BEHAVIOR	that they are not feeling emotionally safe because they are traumatized and in “blocked trust.” This training will help parents make sense of lying, stealing, and hoarding and will provide strategies that will help their children develop healthier behaviors.
Fri 6/12 12:00-1:00pm (1 hour)	Digital Safety Participants will learn about online safety and how to protect children from technology-facilitated crimes. Topics of discussion will be sexting, child pornography, sextortion, online predators, social networks, apps, sharing photos, peer-to-peer downloads, cyberbullying, the dark web, and other dangers. Additional resources will also be discussed.
Wed 6/17 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)	Attachment and Trauma - Helping Kids Heal through Reparative Relationships This workshop offers an essential overview of what trauma is, how it affects the brain, and how it impacts attachment and social/emotional functioning. These strengths-based approaches to understanding trauma will serve as the framework for introducing parenting strategies that support and encourage a healing process for foster youth.
Fri 6/26 11:00am-1:00pm (2 hours) MEDICATION	Medication Management - Being Truly Trauma-Informed: Looking Beyond the Diagnosis ** This training will include a general review of diagnostic evaluations, outcomes and evidence-based care, informed consent/assent, treatment adherence, medication side effect and safety issues, and tips when treatment is not working. Families will learn how to integrate trauma informed care in comprehensive treatment, and the importance and benefit of trauma psychosocial services.
Tues 6/30 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)	Building Safety and Trust: Supporting Youth with Diverse SOGIE Do you want to learn more about LGBTQ youth? Are you unsure how to support gay and lesbian youth? This training will explore the broad range of gender identity and sexual orientation. This course will review inclusive terms and definitions. In addition to discussion and other interactive activities, local resources for children and families will be identified.

July

Wed 7/8 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)	Reunification – The Primary Permanency Planning Goal This workshop will help caregivers understand the permanency options and the role of parents who are fostering in permanency planning- including reunification. Participants will view permanency from the child's perspective and understand their role in caring for children while at the same time preparing them to return home. Partnering with birth families to achieve reunification will also be explored.
Sat 7/11 9:00-11:00am (2 hours) (BEHAVIOR)	Conflict Resolution and Strengthening Families This training will review the impact of trauma on family dynamics, communications, and styles of conflict resolution and family functioning. The training will highlight trauma-informed principles that support the development of family resiliency.

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<p>Wed 7/22 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)</p>	<p>Adolescence and Trauma This workshop outlines the developmental tasks of adolescence, including separation and individuation, and explores how each are severely impacted by trauma and the foster care experience. This workshop also offers tools and strategies to parents for understanding behavior and responding in a trauma-informed way that promotes healing and preserves the parent/child relationship.</p>
<p>Thu 7/30 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)</p>	<p>Examining Healthy Sleep Foundations Through the Lens of Trauma In this workshop, Certified Pediatric Sleep Consultant and an adoptive mom will be covering the foundations of healthy sleep in children who have experienced trauma.</p>

August

<p>Sat 8/8 9:00-11:00am (2 hours) (MEDICATION MANAGEMENT)</p>	<p>Medication Management – Children’s Mental Health Defined Gain essential knowledge about the causes and diagnosis of mental health conditions in children, along with treatment options and medication management. This training covers diagnostic evaluations, informed consent, treatment adherence, common medication side effects, and trauma-informed care.</p>
<p>Tues 8/11 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours) (BEHAVIOR)</p>	<p>Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: How Prenatal Exposure Impacts the Child in Your Care and How You Parent - This training offers an opportunity to better understand the impact of substance use on a child’s brain development and why alcohol in particular is most damaging. Participants will discover the common challenges children with FASD experience and why some of their behaviors are confusing and frustrating. The training will show caregivers how to adjust their parenting strategies and expectations to best meet the child’s needs.</p>
<p>Fri 8/21 12:00-1:00pm (1 hour)</p>	<p>A Constellation of Caregivers- Understanding Kin First This session will highlight how kin caregivers and non-kin resource parents form a vital network of support and healing. These caregivers are key partners in Maryland’s continuum of care, supporting children through transitions and helping to preserve connections to family, culture, and community. This training will deepen your understanding of how Maryland is reimagining care—family matters, with every caregiver shining as part of the constellation.</p>
<p>Mon 8/31 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)</p>	<p>Improving Communication with Your Teen Adolescence is a trying time for both teenagers and their families. While all teens struggle with issues related to identity formation, these concerns are often compounded for teens in foster care or who have been adopted. This can make parenting a foster/adopted teen a challenging and complex endeavor, requiring a unique set of skills and strategies. This interactive workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of typical vs. atypical teen development. Resource and adoptive parents will learn skills to support their teens and establish a more peaceful and cooperative relationship.</p>

Questions? Contact Laura Teetermoran
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