

Child Welfare Academy

Kin + Resource Caregiver Training Calendar – August through October 2026

Welcome!

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

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.

REGISTER HERE – <https://theinstitute.ce21.com/>

Click JOIN the RPT (Resource Kinship) Group

New Accounts can take 2 business days to activate

August

Thu 8/6 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)	Identifying & Responding to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Human trafficking is a significant public health concern, with children in the foster care system facing heightened vulnerability to exploitation. This course examines the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including risk factors, prevention strategies, indicators of trafficking, and early intervention approaches. Participants will explore the critical role foster parents play in recognizing potential signs of trafficking, responding appropriately, and supporting the safety and well-being of children in their care.
Tues 8/11 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours) (BEHAVIOR)	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.
Sat 8/15 9:00-11:00am (2 hours) (MEDICATION MANAGEMENT)	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.



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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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DAYTIME Fri 8/21 12:00-1:00pm (1 hour)	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.
Mon 8/31 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)	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.

September

Wed 9/9 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)	Safe Dating and Healthy Relationships This training will openly and honestly discuss the traumas that teens, young adults and children face in regard to intimate partner violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. This real, unspoken and taboo violence that touches 1 in 3 females & 1 in 6 males in the United States. We will discuss what violence is, how it can be possibly show signs to those near the victim and what resources are available to the victims, families and caregivers.
Tues 9/15 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours) (MEDICATION)	Medication Management - Being Truly Trauma Informed and Looking Beyond the Diagnosis Explore how trauma—not labels—shapes children’s behaviors and development. This training helps caregivers recognize trauma responses, understand limits of diagnoses, and use practical, healing-focused strategies, including medication basics.
Sat 9/19 9:00-11:00am (2 hours)	Navigating Special Education, IEP Process, and Challenges of the Educational System This training explores the 7 Core Issues of Adoption and Permanency, the impact of ambiguous grief, and the emotional shifts of changing family roles. Learn trauma-informed strategies, build resilience, and support both yourself and the children in your care.
DAYTIME Fri 9/25 12:00-2:00pm (2 hours) (BEHAVIOR)	Attachment and Trauma - Helping Kids Heal through Reparative Relationships Learn an essential overview of what trauma is, how it affects the brain, and how it impacts attachment and social/emotional functioning. Reinterpret challenging behaviors as symptoms of trauma and learned methods of coping rather than defiance or manipulation. These strengths-based approaches to understanding trauma will serve as the framework for introducing parenting strategies are supportive and encouraging.

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Tues 9/29 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)	Digital Safety: Risks and Responses to Children Sharing Explicit Materials This session will help attendees define child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and understand relevant barriers, risks, rewards, and effective responses. In addition, attendees will review data on perceptions of normalcy and recent trends in online exploitation as well as consider the culture impact of technology on adolescents. Attendees will discuss best practices for engaging with adolescents through a harm reduction approach.
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October

Thu 10/8 6:00-9:00pm (3 hours)	Supporting Children in Care through Parent Partnership This training will discuss the critical role of resource and kin providers in supporting parent partnership with families of origin. Guidance on Comfort Calls and Icebreakers and Continuum of Contact will be reviewed and utilized to promote and outline best practices for facilitating authentic engagement, partnership and teaming to build a positive, trusting co-parenting relationship. The benefits and challenges of parent partnership for the child, birth parents and resource parents will be discussed, and caregivers will leave with actionable strategies.
Wed 10/14 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours)	Internet Social Media Safety The internet is a growing part of our lives. Students are being exposed to a wide range of content as they work and play online. Learn about the importance of security settings on social media, how social media puts you at risk and how to protect yourself when using social networks.
Saturday 10/24 9:00am-3:00pm (5 training hours) BEHAVIOR MEDICATION	FALL RESOURCE PARENT VIRTUAL CONFERENCE Attendees will experience an informational keynote: <i>The Financial Side of Out-of-Home Care: Navigating Supports, Stipends, and Resources</i> Plus, an opportunity to attend two breakout sessions: Options Include: - Finding the "I" in the Storm - Medication Management - Children's Mental Health Defined (Medication) - Ambiguous Grief - Understanding and Addressing Grief of Non-Death Losses - Holding it Together - Disruption Prevention (Behavior) Register here – https://theinstitute.ce21.com/page/rpt-conference-registration-5739
Wed 10/28 6:00-8:00pm (2 hours) (MEDICATION)	Helping Neurodivergent Children Succeed This training will help parents and caregivers better understand Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Learning Disabilities, Sensory Processing Issues, and other neurodivergent experiences.

Questions? Contact Laura Teetermoran

lteetermoran@ssw.umaryland.edu / (410)706-0721