

Mission

It is the Mission of the Foster and Kinship Care Education Program at College of the Redwoods to provide quality education and support opportunities to caregivers of children and youth in out of home care so that these providers may meet the educational, emotional, behavioral and developmental needs of children and youth in the foster care system.

All training sessions are FREE. Although our target audience foster adoptive parents and relative caregivers, our training classes are open to all community members.

We offer online training of Resource Family Approval classes for Humboldt & Del Norte Counties through Zoom Video Conferencing.

We provide classes on a variety of topics, including:

- ⇒ Cultural diversity and sensitivity
- ⇒ Accessing education and health services
- ⇒ Medically fragile infants and children
- ⇒ Self-esteem enhancement
- ⇒ Understanding and working with the court system
- ⇒ Basic child development
- ⇒ Adoption and concurrent planning issues

For our schedule of classes, go to

www.redwoods.edu/services/foster/schedules.php



Every child deserves a family

About Us

The FKCE program was established in 1984 following the passage of Senate Bill 2003, the Foster Children and Parent Training Fund. This act designated the California Community College Chancellor's Office as the agency to administer the program, which provides funding to community colleges for the provision of education and training to potential and existing resource parents.

The College of the Redwoods FKCE program works with the Humboldt and Del Norte County Department of Health & Human Services, Child Welfare Divisions to provide training and support for the resource families in our county. The FKCE program provides caregivers with continuing education and training on topics such as understanding attachment and bonding, helping children who have experienced trauma, impacts of grief and loss, positive discipline methods, advocating for children in the education system, and working with child welfare.

Visit our website for more information on:

Program Staff, Ongoing Trainings, Class Materials, Class Schedules, Meetings, Frequently Asked Questions, & Resources.

www.redwoods.edu/services/foster



Foster & Kinship Care Education Program

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Foster & Kinship Care Education Program

Redwoods Community College District



Because it's never too late to make a difference!

Pre-Service Classes

Resource Family Approval Training (RFA)

This 12-hour training (Module 1, 2, 3 & 4) provides basic training required for those who wish to become a resource family provider. This program is a unified, family-friendly, and child-centered approval process. It will replace the existing processes for the procedures listed below by combining elements of all of them into a single approval standard:

- Licensing of resource family homes;
- Approval of relatives and non-relative extended family members as resource family providers or legal guardians; and
- Approval of adoptive families.

In addition, RFA will provide greater support to relative and non-related extended family member caregivers, reduce placement moves and improve the permanency process.

Infants in Care

Infants in Care is a required pre-service class for any resource parent who plans to care for an infant under the age of one year old. Often, many of the infants who come into the foster care system were exposed to addictive opiates or alcohol while in the mother's womb. A trained facilitator will provide in depth instruction on ways to care for an infant who was exposed to opiates in the womb and who may suffer from Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

Tribal children and families have special legal protection when involved in the child welfare system. This training will focus on ICWA for caregivers, helping caregivers understand the history and importance of the Indian Child Welfare Act and caregiver responsibilities to keep tribal children connected to their extended family, tribal community and tribal culture. This class is required in Humboldt County pre-licensing and highly recommended in Del Norte County.

In-Service Classes

Adoption & Permanency

This class gives insight into adoption, guardianship and other permanency options for families caring for children through foster care. It is meant for families that are thinking about becoming, in the process of, or already parents or guardians.

CPR & First Aid

Learn how to take care of your loved ones or any others in need should an emergency, accident or injury occur. Learn how to save a life. The trainer will show you how to provide CPR, use an AED unit, help stop bleeding, basic arm slings, and other simple emergency tips.

Behavioral Health

Mental Health Toolkit for Resource Families is a training that will provide general overview and basic skills for resource families. Most children in foster care will at some point experience challenging and often scary behaviors that can greatly impact the success of being in their placement. This class will help the resource family learn some techniques that can help keep the child safe until the situation dissipates and/or until professional help can assist.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Awareness Training (CSEC)

CSEC is a form of human trafficking happening around the world that occurs when an individual buys, trades or sells sexual acts with a child. In this workshop you will learn about State and Federal Laws, Local and National Statistics, Local Issues, Profile of a Trafficker/Pimp, and Cultural Contributors. This training is about raising awareness, recognizing the dynamics, identifying the vulnerabilities, and identifying CSEC warning signs. Most importantly, you will learn how foster and kinship home care intersects with CSEC.

Caregiver Self-care

In this class, we will discuss ways to identify trauma and secondary trauma and why this matters. We will define "self-care" and learn new ways you can care for yourself, some of which can be shared with the kids in your life. We will also discuss self-regulation and co-regulation.

Grief & Loss

This workshop gives participants an opportunity to discuss feelings of grief and loss associated with being an ambassador for the children that are/will be part of your home. Grief and loss is multi-dimensional and we will explore how it impacts you, your family, and the children you get to care for. Our time together will consist of information, activities, and discussion designed to provide you tools and tips to assist you through the process.

Our Nervous System, Trauma & Attachment

This class focuses on trauma and attachment; what it is and how it forms, as well as the difference between normal and abnormal attachment. Attachment disorders are examined, and participants are provided with tools for dealing with issues surrounding attachment. The trainer will also discuss and describe the behaviors experienced by children taken into care and how best to deal with those behaviors. We will also focus on identifying motivations for behaviors and directing children toward more positive ways of getting emotional needs met.

Teens 101

Caregiving for adolescents, teens, and young adults can be complicated and challenging. This class will give caregivers education on teen development and how trauma impacts their functioning and wellbeing. The class will give practical tools and strategies to help improve relationships and create more harmony in the home.

Visitation

This class will focus on the key elements and mandates of parent child visitation through the child welfare system and best practice for developing visitation plans, including child and family team meetings. Consistent, frequent visitation improves children's emotional health and behavior, improves attachment, reduces the negative impact of removal on children, and helps children adjust to foster care and maintain a healthy, realistic view of themselves and their parent.