

AGENDA

CASEWORKER CORE MODULE 8: SEPARATION, PLACEMENT, AND REUNIFICATION IN FAMILY-CENTERED CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTIONS & SEPARATION INTRODUCTIONS – 45 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will:

- Get to know one another and the trainer.
- Identify their learning needs specific to this module.
- Understand the experiential nature of the workshop and be encouraged to safely explore emotions related to separation and placement of children.

SECTION 2: CONCEPTS OF SEPARATION – 1 HOUR 15 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will:

- Explain the dynamics of separation and children’s typical emotional responses to the separation experience.
- Explain the potential emotional impact on children when separating them from their parents and placing them into substitute care.
- Describe how a child’s attachment may be impacted by separation and placement away from their significant attachment figures.

SECTION 3: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO CHILDREN’S EMOTIONAL RESPONSES TO SEPARATION AND PLACEMENT – 1 HOUR

Objectives

Participants will:

- Be able to describe the factors that can precipitate a crisis for children during separation and placement.
- Be able to describe the dynamics of crisis and how developmental variables affect a child's responses to the separation and placement experience.
- Be able to describe how children's developmental level affects their perception of separation and placement.

SECTION 4: CHILDREN'S REACTIONS TO PLACEMENT – 1 HOUR 30 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will:

- Recognize the wide range of behavioral expressions of stress and loss in children who have been separated from their families and placed into substitute care.
- Understand loss for children during the removal process.
- Be able to identify the possible lasting impact of trauma from separation.
- Develop trauma-informed practices to assist children through the process of traumatic separation.

SECTION 5: PLACEMENT OF THE CHILD – 6 HOURS

Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand the importance of thorough and objective assessment in determining the need to move a child.
- Recognize the importance of identifying the least restrictive and trauma informed placement setting to meet each child's individual needs.
- Understand the benefits and challenges of kinship care.
- Know how to prepare the child, the primary family, kinship and foster caregivers for the placement.

- Know how to properly plan and execute placements which will minimize the trauma and long-term negative consequences for the child and the family.
- Describe the importance of regular and frequent visitation to maintain attachment between children in care and their families.
- Understand the importance of supportive and therapeutic follow-up services in order to support the child in placement and to prevent disruption.

SECTION 6: ENABLING AND EMPOWERING PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT – 3 HOURS

Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand the traumatic effects of separation and placement for parents and how parents’ distress may be expressed in behavior.
- Be able to work with parents to strengthen the parents, enhance the visitation process, and to assure opportunities for prompt reunification.

SECTION 7: SUPPORTING THE CAREGIVER AND CHILD IN PLACEMENT – 45 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will:

- Gain self-awareness of professional struggles with kinship.
- Understand the role of foster, kinship, and other caregivers as a member of a team to serve children in care and their families.
- Understand the caseworker’s role in supporting caregivers and children in placement.

SECTION 8: THE PHILOSOPHY OF PERMANENCE AND PERMANENCY PLANNING – 1 HOUR 30 MINUTES

Objectives

Participants will:

- Understand the philosophy of permanence and its importance in maintaining the psychological health of children.
- Recognize permanency planning as an aspect of comprehensive case planning.
- Be able to apply the concepts of concurrent planning, family group decision-making, and other agency activities to assure child permanency and to recognize permanency tasks as the responsibility of all workers, regardless of job title.

SECTION 9: PROMOTING REUNIFICATION – 2 HOURS

Objectives

Participants will:

- Know the factors that lead to successful reunification and how to plan for successful reunification.
- Know how to determine when a family is ready for reunification.
- Understand the importance of post-reunification interventions to maintain the child's placement.

SECTION 10 – CLOSING – 15 MINUTES

Objective

- Participants will reconnect with the concept of spaced retrieval for long-term learning retention and develop individualized plans.