

Blended Pre-Service Curriculum for Online and Classroom Training

Created by:

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and

Institute for Human Services

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Introduction to the Blended Pre-Service Curriculum

Thank you for choosing the Blended Pre-Service Training Curriculum. The curriculum includes content for four 3-hour in-person training sessions and 10 online training classes but can be easily customized to meet your agency's needs.

This manual contains activities, discussion points, handouts, syllabi and questionnaire answer sheets for the online courses, evaluation forms, and more. Use as much or as little of the manual as you like.

We also provide you with an editable PowerPoint presentation.

If you have any questions about using any portion of this training curriculum, please contact us at 800-777-6636.

The sequence of the Blended Pre-Service Curriculum is as follows:

Meeting I: Orientation and Overview	Classroom
1. The Child Welfare Team	Online
2. Child Abuse and Neglect	Online
3. Parent-Child Attachment	Online
4. Understanding Behavior in Foster Children	Online
Meeting II: Review of Sessions 1-4	Classroom
5. Child Development	Online
6. Cultural Issues in Parenting	Online
7. Working Together with Primary Families	Online
Meeting III: Review of Sessions 5-7	Classroom
8. Caring for Children Who Have Been Sexually Abused	Online
9. Reducing Family Stress	Online
10. Foster Care to Adoption	Online
Meeting IV: Review of Sessions 8-10 and Wrap-Up	Classroom

Guidelines for Blended Pre-Service Curriculum

Training Populations

The Blended Pre-Service Curriculum is designed to prepare the following populations to care for children in the child welfare system:

- prospective foster caregivers
- prospective kinship caregivers
- prospective adoptive parents

Optimal Class Size

The meeting curriculum is designed for classes of 20 to 25 participants. However, the curriculum may be used effectively with groups ranging from 6 to 36.

Scheduling Options

This course provides a great deal of flexibility to both agencies and prospective caregivers. The training can be provided in a short period of time, if desired, or at a more relaxed pace. The four in-person meetings may be offered within a four-week period, with three or four corresponding online courses completed during each one-week interval. Or, the in-person meetings may be offered at two-week intervals over an eight-week period, with the online sessions completed during a two-week hiatus between each meeting.

Suggested Training Rules

1. Both parents or caregivers in a two-parent household need to complete all online courses and all meetings in order to be licensed/approved. Some states require any adult living in the household to complete pre-service training.
2. All online courses assigned are to be completed prior to the corresponding meetings.
3. If a caregiver attends a meeting without having completed a corresponding online session, meet with that parent following the meeting to determine and problem-solve barriers to completion. Direct the parent to make up the delinquent session(s) and complete all online courses corresponding to the next meeting by the time the next meeting occurs. If the parent does not complete this work by the next meeting, you may need to tell him/her to restart training at the next offering of the Blended Pre-Service Curriculum.
4. Trainees missing more than 15 minutes of a meeting cannot receive credit for attending the meeting.
5. Trainees missing a meeting must make up the missed meeting prior to licensure/approval. Some agencies may choose to offer two meeting sessions during each interval (one weekday evening meeting and one Saturday morning option) to allow maximum flexibility as well as make-up opportunities.

6. Trainees must sign the sign-in sheet to document attendance at meetings.
7. No children under the age of 18 may attend the in-person meetings. Permission may be granted for adult guest trainees.

Evaluation

A suggested evaluation tool is included for use in collecting feedback from participants about training content, the trainer, and the logistics of the workshops (see following pages).



Meeting 1

Orientation to Foster Care and Pre-Service





Meeting I: Orientation to Foster Care and Pre-Service

Competencies

1. Awareness of the primary goals of child welfare services and the types of services that can help abused and neglected children and their families.
2. Awareness of the differences between foster care, adoption, and kinship care and the purpose of each type of care.

Learning Objectives

- learn about foster care and child welfare
- learn about the organization of the Blended Pre-Service Curriculum training and be able to complete the next steps in the process
- self-assess their ability to be successful foster parents and to work as part of the child welfare team
- become familiar with agency policies and procedures and interact with agency staff

Time

3 hours

Materials

- name tents and markers for trainees
- sign-in sheet
- agency and state department literature
- written copy of state foster care rules
- information regarding waiting children (optional)
- flip chart and markers
- Handout #1: *Goals of Pre-Service Training*
- Handout #2: *Schedule of Blended Pre-Service Curriculum*
- PowerPoint presentations (Meeting 1; How to Use FosterParentCollege.com®), laptop, and projector





Agenda

- I. Welcome/Introductions 15 minutes
- II. Show Me a Picture 15 minutes
- III. Process of Pre-Service Training 30 minutes
- IV. Brief Overview of Child Welfare System and Foster Care 20 minutes

- BREAK 15 minutes

- V. State-Specific Information and Agency Overview 30 minutes
- VI. Questions/Interaction 45 minutes
- VII. Wrap-Up 10 minutes

