

Resource Family Approval

Pre-Service Training

Module Three: Meeting the complex needs of children in out of home care

Santa Barbara County
Department of Social Services



Our County.
Our Kids.

Foster + Adopt + Mentor

Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services

RFA Training Goals

- ▶ Realistically prepare caregivers to be Resource Parents who can meet the special needs of children and youth in care.
- ▶ Prepare Resource Parents to provide familiar, safe, and nurturing environments for children in foster care.
- ▶ Prepare Resource Parents to be members of the Child Welfare Team.
- ▶ Achieve Safety and Permanency for children who are part of the Child Welfare Services system.



Agenda

- ▶ Typical health needs of children in care and your role in supporting getting them healthy – and associated record keeping.
- ▶ Helping children in care get their educational needs met.
- ▶ How positive discipline affects self-esteem and identity.
- ▶ Discipline styles and negative impacts of physical discipline – discipline policy.
- ▶ Building a healthy self-esteem and identity through cultural connections.



What is the difference between routine care and more significant treatment?



Educational Needs of Children in Care

Children in foster care have more problems in school because of:

- ▶ Placement changes.
- ▶ Lost time away from school/lost credits.
- ▶ Unmet learning deficiencies including developmental delays or trauma related behavioral/emotional issues.

AB 490 provides key protections for children in care.



AB 490 Protections

- ▶ Child has right to attend their school of origin for duration of school year.
- ▶ CWS must try to keep child in their current school.
- ▶ Foster Youth Services liaison.
- ▶ Right to immediate enrollment.
- ▶ Right to get partial coursework credit.
- ▶ Right to graduate from their school.
- ▶ Not penalized for absences due to their situation.



Health needs of children in care

- ▶ Children in out of home care have more health problems than other children.
- ▶ 9 out of 10 come into care with at least one health problem that needs medical attention.
- ▶ Children often have chronic health conditions.
- ▶ Children in care have gaps in medical history and medical care.



Caregiver role in health care

- ▶ Get health history from social worker at placement and share with the child's doctor.
- ▶ Exercise universal precautions.
- ▶ Get Medi-Cal benefits card at placement, ask for name of existing doctor and Health and Education Passport.
- ▶ Make an appointment for a CHDP well-child medical and dental appointment within 30 days of the child's placement in your home. Have doctor fill out Health Contact Form (HEP 30) for every doctor visit and obtain paperwork from MD.
- ▶ Follow up with any recommended treatment and inform social worker.
- ▶ Provide documentation to your worker at each monthly visit.



What is a CHDP well-child exam?

Broad evaluation that includes:

- ▶ Evaluation of known medical history
- ▶ Physical Exam
- ▶ Nutrition screening
- ▶ Hearing and Vision examination
- ▶ Evaluation of developmental/educational progress
- ▶ Dental Health screening
- ▶ Recommended lab tests and immunizations



What is a Health and Education Passport?

- ▶ A set of records of child's known health and medical history and records of follow up care.
- ▶ The passport travels with the child while in placement and resource parent maintains records.
- ▶ Addresses fragmentation of medical history that results in poor care of children in care.



California Children's Services (CCS)

- ▶ A state Health Services program that provides special medical care and funding for serious, chronic and disabling physical conditions or diseases.
- ▶ Project Follow Up: high risk infant evaluations.
- ▶ Diagnostic Program: refers and pays for evaluation by medical specialists.
- ▶ Treatment Program: comprehensive case management and funding to treat serious conditions.



A moral life

- ▶ Think back and talk about how you learned right from wrong in your family.
- ▶ How did your cultural community guide your development of a conscience?
- ▶ What is the difference between discipline and punishment?



Our Behavior is Communication

Discipline starts by understanding the function, or the meaning of your child's behaviors as well as your own parenting style.

Discussion:

- ▶ How does a young child express discomfort – physical pain, emotional pain?
- ▶ What is your parenting style?

Remember, discipline is modeled and taught by adults to children.



Punishment vs Discipline

- ▶ Punishment is about imposing your control on another person, or expressing YOUR OWM dissatisfaction/anger/frustration about a person or situation.
- ▶ Discipline is about teaching, e.g. root of the word discipline, DISC, is the root for many words and concepts that focus on teaching or modeling for a child:
 - Discuss
 - Discourse
 - Discover
 - Disciple



You can figure out the need behind a behavior.

Understanding your child's behaviors is possible by looking at:

- ▶ The Setting of the behavior – where/when is the behavior occurring.
- ▶ The Antecedents to the behavior – what happened immediately before the behavior.
- ▶ The Consequences of the behavior – what happened after the behavior – did the child avoid a task? Did the behavior lead to the child avoiding closeness with you and your family?

It may be that the child does not know the reason behind the behaviors and the way it affects others.



Logical Consequences

- ▶ Logical consequences are situations engineered by the person in authority that are logically connected to the wrong. It is logical because it "fits" the offense.
- ▶ Logical consequences can be very effective in teaching self regulation and social skills that the child did not previously have the opportunity to learn.



Child Welfare Discipline Policy

- ▶ No physical discipline of child in care.
- ▶ No physical discipline of other children in front of a child in care.
- ▶ Logical and natural consequences for behavior.



What is Culture?

- ▶ Culture is the systems of knowledge shared by a group of people.
- ▶ Culture in its broadest sense is cultivated behavior; that is the totality of a person's learned, accumulated experience which is socially transmitted/taught.
- ▶ A culture is a way of life of a group of people--the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one person or generation to the next.



The Many Cultures we Live In

Our individual culture is made up of:

- ▶ Our racial or ethnic background
- ▶ The region of the country, state or county we grew up in
- ▶ The home we grew up in and the home we've made as adults
 - every family and home has a specific culture
- ▶ The many subcultures we can be of part of, e.g.:
 - Spirituality/Faith
 - Profession
 - Clubs or other social groups



The needs of LGBTQ youth

LGBTQ youth are at high risk for:

- ▶ Bullying and hate crimes
- ▶ Physical, sexual and emotional abuse
- ▶ Trafficking
- ▶ Mental/Behavioral Health Concerns



Meeting the Needs of LGBTQ Youth

LGBTQ Youth have the right to:

- ▶ Express their orientation to others.
- ▶ Get support for their feelings as part of normal sexual development.
- ▶ Be free from harassment.
- ▶ Engage in inclusive social activities.
- ▶ Express their orientation through clothing, jewelry and hairstyle.
- ▶ Have access to LGBTQ inclusive materials.



HOW CAN YOU LINK A CHILD TO THEIR CULTURE IN YOUR HOME, THE COMMUNITY AND WITH THEIR BIRTH FAMILY?



You're Graduated Training.. What next..?



Thank You!!

