

# BC Foster Care Education Program (53-hour training)

## Curriculum

### Series 1:

(36 hours/9 modules)

#### Module 1: Caring for Children: Overview

(3 hours)

View MCFD's Guardianship Model, the concept of team-work, and the roles and responsibilities of those providing care to children.

#### Module 2: Communication Skills & Self-Awareness

(3 hours)

Learn about why effective communication skills are foundational to caregiving relationships with children, youth, families, and members of the child care team and how self-awareness impacts communication and relationships.

#### Module 3: Effects of Caregiving (3 hours)

Explore the impacts of caregiving on the foster family and on self and discuss relationships within neighbourhood and community. Address signs/sources of stress, and methods for managing them.

#### Module 4: The Child's Family (3 hours)

Emphasize the importance of the child's family and explore the caregiver's role in working with and involvement with the child's family.

#### Module 5 Observing, Recording, and Reporting

(3 hours)

Study the importance of communicating succinct, accurate, and relevant information to the child's worker and other professionals. Recognize the benefits and purposes of observing and recording, describe the differences between behavioural description and behavioural interpretation, identify what to record in a daily log, and discuss when to report relevant information to the appropriate care-team member.

#### Module 6: Child and Youth Development

(3 hours)

Understand how children and youth develop and grow, and explore potential influences on their development. Support the growth and development of children and youth in care.

#### Module 7: Attachment, Separation, and Loss

(6 hours)

Focus on understanding attachment and loss, and promoting healthy attachment

#### Module 8: When Children Experience Abuse & Neglect

(6 hours)

Identify the symptoms and indicators of abuse and neglect and the effect on children. Deal positively with reactions and feelings about child abuse and how to identify and respond to the needs of abused and neglected children. Recognize how to support a child who is disclosing.

#### Module 9: Guiding Behaviour of Children and Youth (6 hours)

Examine ways of understanding and guiding behaviours using a child/youth-centred approach. Explore ways of understanding and being with children and youth whose behaviours present challenges



## Series 2:

(17 hours/ 5 modules)

### Module 1: Cultural Responsiveness (3 hour)

Welcome and be mindful of the diversity of children and youth in-care. Understand the importance of maintaining cultural identity for children's healthy development and supportive ways to respond to children's social and cultural experiences.

### Module 2: Aboriginal Children in Care (3 hours )

Understand and integrate Aboriginal culture in ways that promote and enhance well-being. Address the variety of cultural heritages of Aboriginal people and how to access local Aboriginal resources.

### Module 3: Substance Misuse Awareness (3 hours)

Examine the degrees of substance use, indications of substance misuse, and factors that contribute to misuse. Consider ways to assist and support a child or youth that misuses substances and discuss how to access resources.

### Module 4: An Introduction to Fetal Alcohol and Neonatal Abstinence Syndromes (3 hours)

Review factual information about the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol on the development of children. Study Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, the implications of caring for children whose development and behaviours may be influenced by this condition, and how to respond to and support their needs.

### Module 5: Suicide Awareness (5 hours)

Learn to recognize warning signs, risk assessment, response mechanisms, and where to get help.

MCFD requires that this education series be completed within 2 years of signing your Family Care Home Agreement.