

### **Meeting 6: Helping children with birth family connections**

- Identity, Self-concept and Culture - Importance of Birth Family Connections - Importance of Visits with Birth Families

### **Meeting 7: Gains and Losses: Helping children leave foster care**

- Going Home: The Partnership Approach - Preventing Disruptions: The Partnership Approach - Meeting Our Own Needs

### **Meeting 8: Understanding the impact of fostering or adopting**

- The Family as a System - Assessing Your Family for Change

### **Meeting 9: Perspectives in foster parenting and adoptive parenting**

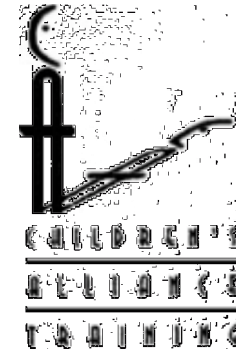
### **Meeting 10: Endings and Beginnings**

- Strengths/Needs Assessment: the group preparation and selection program.
- Strengths/Needs Assessment: the family and agency partnership.

*All potential foster and adoptive parents must undergo background checks. Homes must be licensed by Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and meet their licensing requirements.*

### **Twelve criteria for successful fostering or adopting are:**

1. Know your own family
2. Communicate effectively
3. Know the children
4. Build strengths; meet needs
5. Work in partnership
6. Be loss and attachment experts
7. Manage behaviors
8. Build connections
9. Build self-esteem
10. Assure health and safety
11. Assess impact
12. Make an informed decision



## **PS-MAPP Program**



Community Agencies Serving Children and Families

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## What is PS - MAPP?

**PS-MAPP** stands for Partnering for Safety and Permanence— **Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting**. It is a group preparation and selection program.

Every potential foster or adoptive parent is required to complete PS - MAPP training before a child can be placed in their home. It is to prepare individuals and families to make an informed decision about becoming a resource family for children in the foster care and adoption program. The decision is made with a child welfare sponsoring agency and is based on the capability and willingness to take on the "role" and develop the skills needed to foster or adopt. Resources families who make good decisions and grow in their new roles work best with the agency, birth families and others. These partnerships help children and youth have stability and permanence within a family.

The program guides potential applicants through the complex issues they will face as resource parents. Through carefully designed activities, parents see firsthand the challenges of fostering/adopting. Using both group and individual exercises, leaders help parents decide if their expectations and abilities match the realities of fostering/adopting. Mutual preparation and selection enable parents and sponsoring agencies to build the basis of teamwork toward permanency for children and their families.

Partnerships in parenting become partnerships for permanency. When resource parents understand the needs of children and their families, it is more likely that permanency will be achieved.

## FAQ's

### ***How much does it cost?***

PS-MAPP training is offered free of charge.

### ***Who can attend?***

PS-MAPP training is open to all qualified potential foster/adoptive parents. Please note that both parents in the household are required to complete training before becoming a licensed foster care provider.

### ***Am I obligated to be a resource parent after completing PS-MAPP training?***

No. Some potential resource parents realize during the pre-service training that foster/adoptive parenting would not be right for them. There is absolutely no obligation to become a resource parent after completing PS-MAPP classes. As an additional benefit, almost all participants have claimed that PS-MAPP training has helped them become better parents to their own children.

### ***When do the classes take place?***

New PS-MAPP classes begin every few weeks or months, depending upon instructor availability and demand from the community. Meetings last three hours per week for ten consecutive weeks.

### ***Where are the classes located?***

PS-MAPP trainings are held all over the state of Kansas. Check out the schedule at the Children's Alliance's website at [www.childdally.org](http://www.childdally.org) to see the latest dates and locations.

### ***How do I find out more information or register for PS-MAPP training?***

Interested applicants can call the Children's Alliance of Kansas toll-free at 1-877-345-6787 or check our website for locations and dates.

## The PS-MAPP Program

(10 meetings)

### **Meeting 1: Welcome to PS-MAPP Group Preparation and Selection Program**

### **Meeting 2: Where the MAPP leads: A foster care and adoption experience**

### **Meeting 3: Losses and Gains**

- The need to be a "Loss Expert" - Grieving Process Stages - Impact of Loss on Feelings and Behavior - Partnership in Loss: Turning Losses Into Gains

### **Meeting 4: Helping children with attachments**

- Meeting Needs: The Foundation for Building and Maintaining Trust and Attachment - Issues Affecting Attachment for Children in Foster Care or Adoption - Developing Positive Attachments

### **Meeting 5: Helping children learn to manage their behaviors**

- The Important Role of Foster Parents and Adoptive Parents in Helping Children Express Feelings and Manage Behaviors - Skills adoptive and foster parents can use to help children learn healthy behaviors