



Virtual Resource Kit:

Looking at Challenging Behaviors via a Trauma-Informed Lens



Children who have experienced trauma may present challenging behaviors at times. These behaviors can be emotionally and physically exhausting for children and their caregivers. Therefore, it is important to consider looking at challenging behaviors through a trauma-informed lens.

Tip Sheets

What Do These Behaviors Mean?

Lying, stealing, food hoarding, and defiance are some of the more challenging behaviors you may face from the children and youth in your care. This tip sheet offers suggestions on managing these behaviors and illustrates how trauma and fear are the foundation for these actions.

What Do These Behaviors Mean? How Children Process & Respond to Trauma

This tip sheet looks more deeply into how kids' brains process trauma and how you can help reset those neural pathways so healing can happen.

Recognizing and Reacting to Trauma Triggers

At times, children and youth may seem to have extremely over-the-top responses to minor issues that may cause you to question what exactly is going on. This tip sheet explains trauma triggers, why they occur, and how to respond.

Working With Children Who Have Been Traumatized

Children show signs of trauma in many ways. This tip sheet helps you identify the signs and symptoms and offers ideas on how to help your family work through these trauma-related behaviors.

Helping to Heal Invisible Hurts: The Impact of In-Utero Stress & Trauma

This tip sheet will help you understand how stress and fear during pregnancy affect babies and children in both immediate and long-term ways.

Champion Classrooms Courses & Webinars

Everyday Language and How It Impacts Trauma

When we are parenting in a family touched by trauma, mindfulness around our words becomes essential. This webinar explores modifying our language to promote healthier relationships and build lasting connections.

Creating Felt Safety

Simply because a child is safe doesn't mean that they feel safe. Regulated, connected children who feel safe behave well. This webinar will show you how to create a sense of felt safety for your child and bring a sense of calm, connection, and joy to your family.

Lying as Trauma-Driven Behavior

This webinar will help you understand one of the most frustrating trauma-driven behaviors: lying. You will learn how to respond to lying in a way that will increase trust and decrease the fear—the very thing that is driving the dishonesty in the first place.

Champion Classrooms Courses & Webinars Continued

When Difficult Behaviors Arise

Children enter foster and adoptive families with many needs. Some are evident early, while others surface during later development. This webinar looks at behavioral concerns that commonly arise in the school-age years through a trauma-informed lens.

When Caring Hurts: Navigating Anxiety and Fear in Trauma-Informed Caregiving

Caring for children who have experienced trauma can be both rewarding and challenging. This webinar is designed specifically for caregivers navigating the emotional complexities of supporting children with a history of childhood trauma. We will explore how anxiety arises within our physical and emotional systems, helping caregivers better understand their own reactions when fear and stress surface.

Hope, Healing and Connection: A Trauma-Responsive Journey for Families

Each family brings their own story—and with it, unique needs. Sometimes that story includes foster care, adoption, or guardianship. Often, needs show up right away, while others emerge as children grow and develop.

Compassionate Boundaries - A Trauma-Responsive Approach for Caregivers

Caregiving asks so much of you—and when the days get tough, having the right tools can make all the difference. This webinar explores how to set compassionate, trauma-responsive boundaries with children.

Blocked Care: What to Do When You Run Out of Compassion

If you're a parent or caregiver, are you ashamed and bewildered by your lack of compassion? If you're a professional, are you confused by parents who resist your suggestions? There is neuroscience behind why parents may feel ineffective and experience a sense of apathy called blocked care.

Healing-Centered Engagement: The Power of Community and Connection

Significant impact can be made in the lives of children when caregivers move beyond trauma-informed to healing-centered. That's why we are focusing this training on healing-centered approaches for caregivers of children.

Supporting the Caregiver to Help The Youth Thrive

This webinar will focus on and give attention to the caregiver in a family setting. The presenter will provide participants with space to explore the ways in which a caregiver's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors have been altered as a result of life changes.

Questions? Contact the Wisconsin Family Connections Center at 1-800-762-8063 or at info@wifamilyconnectionscenter.org.

No Matter What Families Videos

[Ask “What Happened to You” Not “What’s Wrong With You”](#)

[What Do My Child’s Behaviors Mean?](#)

Resource Library Items

Partners Newsletter: [On Trauma](#)

Fostering Across Wisconsin Newsletter: [On Trauma](#)

The Body Keeps the Score - Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma, by Bessel van der Kolk

Beyond Consequences, Logic, and Control, Vol. 2, by Heather Forbes

Trust-Based Parenting, Creating Lasting Changes in Your Child’s Behavior (DVD), by Dr. Karen Purvis and Dr. David Cross

Additional Weblinks and Recommended Online Resources

[Childhood Trauma - Families Rising](#)

[Understanding Trauma - AdoptUSKids](#)

[Child Trauma Academy](#)

[Being Well Podcast: Childhood Trauma with Dr. Bruce Perry](#)

[Dr. Bruce Perry’s Website](#)

[The NMC Ten Tip Series: The Intimacy Barrier](#)

[The National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)

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