

# Child Welfare Caregiver Training

In an exciting new venture with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the MSU School of Social Work is pleased to present five opportunities for training specific to all caregivers engaged with the Michigan child welfare system.

If you are a birth parent, foster parent, adoptive parent, or kinship/relative parent, these FREE trainings are customized to help support your needs in raising the children in your home, understanding some of the unique and sometimes challenging needs that children and their families often face in the child welfare system.

Following licensure, caregivers are required to earn 6 hours of training annually. These trainings can count toward those hours.



## Advocating for My Child in the School System #519-16

**Date/time:** March 30, 2016 • 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

**Location:** Webinar

**Cost:** Free to all adoptive, foster, and kinship parents

**Presenters:** Tracy Kapusansky, LMSW; Rachel Kornilakis, MS



**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, participants will be prepared to:

- Describe tips to enhance school advocacy by caregivers.
- Identify two strategies to work with school issues.
- Recognize steps in the IEP process.

**Intermediate skill level**

**Target audience:**

- ✓ Adoptive Parents
- ✓ Foster Parents
- ✓ Kinship Parents

**Description:** This one-hour webinar will help foster, adoptive, and kinship parents understand how to best advocate for their children around common issues in the school system. This training will utilize visual displays and have questions/answers at the end.



## Raising Infants, Preschoolers, and Young School-age Children: Creating Security #613-16

**Date/time:** May 21, 2016 • 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** Kentwood Community Church  
2950 Clyde Park Avenue SW, Wyoming, MI 49509

**Cost:** Free to all adoptive, foster, and kinship parents

**Presenters:** Stacey Goodson, BA; Lori Marthens



**Training objectives:** As a result of this training, participants will be prepared to:

- Name two ways to strengthen attachment and create security in young children.
- Describe how to support young children by working with birth parents and workers during transitions.
- Recognize two interventions designed to decrease behavior problems in this age group.

**Beginning and intermediate skill levels**

**Target audience:**

- ✓ Adoptive Parents
- ✓ Foster Parents
- ✓ Kinship Parents

**Description:** This training is designed for foster, adoptive, and kinship parents raising young children. You will learn ways to create security in your child, as well as learn ways to work with birth parents around visits. Come to hear experienced trainers who are foster and adoptive parents talk about these issues as well as how to effectively intervene with behavioral issues. This training will utilize exercises, small and large group discussions, and visual displays.

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## Raising Elementary and Middle School-age Children: Putting the Pieces Together #614-16

*Date/time:* **June 8, 2016** • 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

*Location:* **Ingham County Health Department**  
5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, MI 48911

*Cost:* Free to all adoptive, foster, and kinship parents

*Presenter:* **Michael Reiffer, LMSW**

*Training objectives:* As a result of this training, participants will be prepared to:

- Identify three anger management techniques to use with traumatized school-age children.
- Describe two techniques to support school-age children who are transitioning from one home to another.
- Recognize constructive approaches to working with school behavior and peer issues.

**Intermediate skill level**

**Target audience:**

- ✓ **Adoptive Parents**
- ✓ **Foster Parents**
- ✓ **Kinship Parents**

*Description:* This face-to-face training is designed to be experiential and will utilize activities and tools that are designed for foster, adoptive, and kinship parents who are raising elementary and middle school children who have experienced life in the child welfare system. Specifically, this training will address anger management and emotional regulation skills and practical ways for children and families to effectively manage behaviors. The training will be interactive, and participants will engage in discussion, but also in utilizing skills and interventions being taught. This training will utilize role playing, exercises, small and large group discussions, and visual displays.



## Understanding the Role of Life Books for Youth in Care #526-16

*Date/time:* **August 17, 2016** • 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM

*Location:* **Webinar**

*Cost:* Free to all adoptive, foster, and kinship parents

*Presenter:* **Rosemary Jackson, LMSW**

*Training objectives:* As a result of this training, participants will be prepared to:

- Describe the role of life books in helping children deal with attachment and trauma issues.
- Recognize two tips for foster, adoptive, and kinship parents in completing life books with children.

**Beginning skill level**

**Target audience:**

- ✓ **Adoptive Parents**
- ✓ **Foster Parents**
- ✓ **Kinship Parents**

*Description:* If you are interested in learning about the new life book that is being offered through the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, you will want to attend this webinar. Find out why life books are so important for children from the child welfare system and learn tips to help children complete a life book. This training will utilize visual displays.

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## Raising Older Youth (Ages 14–21): Preparing to Fly #615-16



*Date/time:* **September 7, 2016** • 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

*Location:* **Holiday Inn Detroit-Livonia**  
17123 Laurel Park Drive North, Livonia, MI 48152

*Cost:* Free to all adoptive, foster, and kinship parents

*Presenters:* **Danita Echols, LLMSW**  
**Katie Page Sander, LMSW**

*Training objectives:* As a result of this training, participants will be prepared to:

- Describe developmental issues for teens and young adults.
- Identify ways to help youth develop supportive relationships.
- Identify two post-secondary benefits and programs available for youth.

**Beginning and intermediate skill levels**

**Target audience:**

- ✓ **Adoptive Parents**
- ✓ **Foster Parents**
- ✓ **Kinship Parents**

*Description:* This training will feature information about understanding the needs of older teens who have experienced foster care and how caregivers can assist youth in transitioning to adulthood, including post-secondary benefits and programs. This training will utilize exercises, small and large group discussions, and visual displays.

## How to register for trainings

**In-person training:** Visit <https://socialwork.msu.edu/ceu/catalog.php>  
Under Topics of Interest, click “Child Welfare In-Service Trainings” to register for the course you want to attend. If you do not already have an online account with the MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education Program, you will be asked to create one.

**Webinar training:** Visit <https://socialwork.msu.edu/ceu/catalog.php>  
Under Topics of Interest, click “Webinars” or search course number.

To ensure the best possible experience, we encourage you to review system requirements available at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-and-Mac>. It is recommended that you are hard wired to an Internet connection for the best connection. If you would like to view the webinar on a mobile device, download the free Zoom App.

For information regarding policies and procedures, please visit <https://socialwork.msu.edu/ceu/faq.php>

## Questions?

*Contact:* MSU School of Social Work Continuing Education office  
*Phone:* 517-353-3060  
*Email:* [swkce@msu.edu](mailto:swkce@msu.edu)