

August 18, 2025

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Group Home Providers
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: John Elliott
Administrator



Re: **Foster and Adoptive Parent Training Curriculum**

PURPOSE

This memo provides information related to the standardized foster and adoptive parent training curriculum approved by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The approved curriculum required for initial licensing for foster and adoptive parents in Wisconsin will be changing to ***Nurturing Connections*** in August of 2025.

BACKGROUND

Prior to the transition to the *Nurturing Connections* training curriculum the curriculum that was previously approved by DCF for foster parent training was *Foster Parent Foundation*. The curricula that was previously approved by DCF for Adoptive Parents was *Building Forever Families* and *Fostering to Forever*.

DCF, in partnership with the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System, identified the need to update these three training curricula. Simultaneously, the Children's Bureau provided grant funding to support and create a training curriculum that could be used nationwide for both foster and adoptive parents. This curriculum, National Training and Development Curriculum (NTDC) has been developed and provided by Spaulding for Children in close partnership with other agencies.

DCF, in partnership with Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System, has worked with Spaulding and its curricula to modify and expand in order to meet the initial licensing training and adoptive parent training requirements pursuant to chapter 48 of the

Wisconsin Statutes and Wis. Admin. Code ch. DCF 56 for foster parents and Wis. Admin. Code ch. DCF 51 for adoptive parents.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

The Nurturing Connections training curriculum will become available for foster and adoptive parents beginning August 1st, 2025. The Foster Parent Foundation, Building Forever Families, and Fostering to Forever training curriculum will no longer be available after August 28th, 2025. Counties that train the Foster Parent Foundation curriculum at their agency must discontinue training Foster Parent Foundation in August 2025. Child placing agencies must discontinue training the Foster Parent Foundation training following the first offering of train the trainer for the Nurturing Connections curriculum. During the transition period all foster and adoptive parents are able to access and attend Nurturing Connections curricula through The Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System.

Foster and adoptive parents who have begun, but not yet completed training requirements using the Foster Parent Foundation, Building Forever Families, or Fostering to Forever training curriculum will transition to the Nurturing Connections training curriculum. Crosswalk reference guides have been developed to support licensing agencies in identifying which equivalent Nurturing Connections elements need to be taken based on what previous curricula modules had not yet been taken. Foster and adoptive parents are able to transition from the previously approved curricula to Nurturing Connections and do not need to start all of the required training hours over.

Foster parents who were previously licensed and completed the Foster Parent Foundation training are not required to redo the initial licensing training if they have verification of completion of the Foundation Training curriculum.

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT: DCF Area Administrator

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Bureau of Permanence and Out of Home Care
DCFDSPGeneralFosterCare@wisconsin.gov

MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachments [Nurturing Connections Framework](#)

[Foster Parent Foundation and Nurturing Connections Crosswalk](#)

[Fostering to Forever and Nurturing Connections Crosswalk](#)