



FPSS FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY
"Serving the Foster Parents of the Vancouver Island Region through Support, Networking, Education and on-going Training"
Regional Office: 145-735 Goldstream Ave., Victoria V9B 2X4 / toll free: 1-888-922-8437 fax: 778-430-5463
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FACT SHEET

BCFCE PROGRAM

BC FOSTER CARE EDUCATION PROGRAM

What is BCFCE?

The BC Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) has developed a standardized education program designed to build on the skills and experience caregivers bring to their role, as well as knowledge to support their ongoing training and development. The BC Foster Care Education Program is intended for approved foster parents who have a family care home agreement with MCFD or a Delegated Aboriginal agency. The BC Foster Care Education Program is free of charge and consists of a total of 53 hours of training presented in 14 modules.

Who is required to take BCFCE?

*The director advises the caregiver that it is mandatory for **all ministry or delegated Aboriginal agency caregivers** who sign a family care home agreement or contract to complete the approved ministry caregiver education program within two years from the date of his or her approval. The director refers the caregiver to the regional foster parent support service that provides the mandatory education.*

Child and Family Development Service Standards
Caregiver Support Services Standards
Standard 7: Caregiver Continuing Learning and Education

Why should foster parents attend BCFCE?

The BCFCE introduces participants to topics that are particularly relevant to the foster care experience. Modules focus on include but are not limited to: Communication Skills and Self Awareness; The Effects of Caregiving; The Child's Family; Observing, Recording, and Reporting; Attachment, Separation, and Loss; When Children Experience Abuse and Neglect; Cultural Responsiveness; Aboriginal Children in Care; Substance Misuse; FASD, and Suicide Awareness.

Where is BCFCE on Vancouver Island?

FPSS Foster Parent Support Services Society (FPSS) provides BCFCE training for foster parents on Vancouver Island. The program is offered several communities in the South, Central, and Upper Island regions including Victoria, Duncan, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Courtenay, Campbell River, and Port Hardy.

How can foster parents register for BCFCE?

Foster parents wishing to register for classes in any of these areas can do so by contacting the Regional Office at **1-888-922-8437** or bcfce@fpss.com. FPSS maintains a database of which modules foster parents have attended through the organization and issues a certificate of completion when all requirements have been met.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Contact the FPSS Regional Office at

1-888-922-8437 or admin@fpss.com.



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Series 1: 36 hours / 9 modules:

Modules thread together core themes of teamwork, child and youth development, communications, guiding children's behaviour, family support, diversity and inclusion, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development Guardianship Model.

S1-1 Caring for Children: Overview—3 hours

View MCFD's Guardianship Model, the concept of teamwork, and the roles and responsibilities of those providing care to children. Themes include child and youth development, developing relationships and communication skills, guiding children's behaviour, supporting families, and respecting the diversity of children and families.

S1-2 Communication Skills & Self-Awareness—3 hours

Investigate 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.

S1-3 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.

S1-4 The Child's Family—3 hours

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

S1-5 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.

S1-6 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.

S1-7 Attachment, Separation, and Loss—6 hours

Focus on understanding attachment and loss, and promoting healthy attachments.

S1-8 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.

S1-9 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:

S2-1 Cultural Responsiveness—3 hours

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

S2-2 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.

S2-3 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.

S2-4 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.

S2-5 Suicide Awareness—5 hours

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