



Algoma Family Services' training standards not only meet but exceed the Ministry of Child and Youth Services' standards. Thorough training is the most important step in preparing treatment foster parents to meet the needs of children who come into foster care for the purpose of working on treatment goals.

Foster parent training is progressive and mandatory for both parents in the home, if that is the case. Our TFC trainer is enthusiastic, knowledgeable and holds a specialization in training foster parents through *Cornell University's Family Life Development Center*.

Training begins during the screening process. Applicants are exposed to a realistic and honest view of what Treatment Foster Care entails.

## Pre-service training

Foster parent training begins before children are ever placed in the home. Once a family has chosen to become, and has been accepted as, a treatment foster home, both parents complete pre-service training. Pre-service training provides a comprehensive overview of what a family can expect if they become treatment foster parents.

**Note:** Pre-service training days are not necessarily consecutive days. A training schedule will be designed around your schedule, i.e. training can be broken up over several evenings, provided during weekends, or taken during weekdays.

Pre-service training involves the following:

### Day 1: Policy and Procedure Training (6-8 hours)

To feel confident, you must have a good understanding about the policies that govern how you handle certain situations. Policy and Procedure training covers all the nuts and bolts about things such as: children's rights and responsibilities; confidentiality; acceptable means of discipline; keeping records i.e. medication/minor injuries; damage claims; responsibilities related to the financial assistance provided.

### Day 2: Overview of the Treatment Foster Care Program (6–8 hours)

The Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care program (MTFC) is an evidence-based model in the treatment of children with emotional difficulties. Evidence based means that it is based on research: the guess work is taken out of how children develop pro-social skills needed to better manage in their homes, schools and community. This training will outline the goals of the program. It will give you information about the background and development of the MTFC model as well as information about why we use a team approach and how to use the program's point and level system to encourage and shape pro-social and appropriate behavior.



**Day 3: Understanding Children with Emotional Difficulties (3-4 hours)**

In order to work with children with emotional problems, it is important to understand the child's life experiences and those factors that contribute to antisocial behavior. This training will explore individual, family, peer, school and community factors. If the goal of treatment is to decrease antisocial behavior, treatment must address those factors that contribute to it.

***First Aid & Adult CPR Training* (1-2 days depending on the course taken)**

This training is not provided by Algoma Family Services. Applicants must make their own arrangements to complete an approved First Aid-Adult CPR course. The cost of this course is the responsibility of the applicant.

## **Crisis management training**

Once a home is opened, both parents complete crisis management training within a 6-month probationary period.

This training is called *Therapeutic Crisis Intervention for Family Care Providers* (TCIF). TCIF is a 24-hour certification course taught by the TFC Recruiter/Trainer who is certified through Cornell University to teach this course.

Strategies and interventions that are taught are evidence based, meaning they are researched interventions and strategies about understanding and responding to kids in crisis. The course is designed and geared specifically for people who foster children. More specifically, it is an excellent set of tools that treatment foster parents use when caring for children who are taking part in treatment foster care.