Online Parent Training Found More Effective Than Live Session, Pilot Study Shows

An article documenting the efficacy of online pre-service training has been published in the *Journal of Social Service Research*. The article reports on research conducted on an online pre-service training available on FosterParentCollege.com®.

Typically, potential resource parents must attend all pre-service training in person. Although live sessions are necessary for screening applicants, instructional portions of training could be enhanced by web-based sessions. This pilot study compared the effectiveness of online and classroom versions of one session from a widely used pre-service training program.

Ninety-two individuals enrolled in the program in two states were randomly assigned to a treatment group that viewed an online version of the class on child abuse and neglect or to a comparison group that took the same class in person. Written questionnaires were completed before and after the class. Significant group differences on knowledge of child maltreatment and empathy toward birth parents plus high user satisfaction were hypothesized.

The study showed the online training was more effective than the live training at increasing knowledge. Feedback indicated high satisfaction with the online course.

The finding that online instruction is more effective than live instruction has positive implications for practice because web-based training offers advantages like standardizing instruction, reducing agency and trainee costs, and providing greater flexibility.


New FosterParentCollege.com® Now Live

We invite you to visit our new, improved FosterParentCollege.com® (FPC) website. The site has a fresh look and many new features to make using it simpler and more enjoyable.

Visitors to the new site will see the first big change on the opening page, which has a slide show spotlighting individual classes. A bubble pops up as you scroll over a slide. Bubbles contain an image and a brief description of a course, a button for watching the course preview, and another button for getting started on the registration or enrollment process.

Another feature we think you’ll like is the opportunity to create a personal profile, which will help you connect with others on the discussion boards. The profiles include very basic information about users and their experience working with children. No confidential or contact information can be shared in the profiles. It takes only two or three minutes to set up a profile and we encourage all FPC members to log in and follow the prompts to create a profile.

Dozens of other changes are part of this project, all designed to enhance your experience on the site. More improvements are in the works for phase 2; watch for them in early spring.

As always, establishing an account is free.

We welcome your feedback and invite you to send us your thoughts by clicking the “Send a Comment” button in the upper right-hand corner of any page of the website.
Advanced Parenting Workshops Updated for Your Convenience

The convenient, innovative FosterParentCollege.com® Advanced Parenting Workshops just got better. In response to comments we received from past participants, we reconfigured the workshops and developed some new video to create a richer, more flexible learning experience.

Now participants will be able to jump into a workshop at any time and work at their own pace; there will no longer be a scheduled start or end date. Participants will have 30 days to complete the course.

In addition, we streamlined the assignment and note-taking process by creating a private Notebook for each participant, which allows them to jot down notes or cut and paste comments from the workshop discussion board. Some assignments get saved in the Notebook, while others get emailed to the workshop instructor. Also, the discussion assignments can now be completed inside the course, for greater convenience.

The cost to enroll in a workshop remains $30 and yields six hours of training. Enroll today at www.fosterparentcollege.com.

New Feature Allows Users to Share Experience

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The FPC website has a new feature we think you might enjoy, a Personal Profile. This feature lets users share a little about themselves with other parents they interact with on the discussion boards. Other members will only see a user’s first name and last initial, plus a summary of their experience, when they are logged into the website and reading a user’s posts.

The Personal Profile reveals limited information about users in order to protect their privacy and maintain confidentiality. More information about privacy and confidentiality is available on the website. We encourage you to log in today to set up your profile.

What’s Happening

Advanced Parenting Workshops are now open for enrollment. Recent updates make it possible to jump into a workshop at any time and complete it at your own pace. See related article for details.

The Foster Care to Success scholarship program for college-bound foster kids is now accepting applications. For details and application visit http://www.fc2success.org.

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Find additional resources for foster care and adoption at www.FosterParentCollege.com