

## CCP Training Testing Spotlights Underutilized FPC Tool

We are currently wrapping up the test run of the Foster Parent College Certified Consultant Program Training. Three agency staff members from two different states, and two FPC staff members, participated in the training. The training went well and did what we had hoped: it showed us the strengths and the weaknesses of the training program.

A discussion in the Week 3 Webinar focused on the communication tools available in FPC's online management system. During that discussion, one agency staffer experienced with FPC was excited to learn about the Handouts feature, a tool she was aware of but had never utilized.

Handouts are documents that are created by an administrator and hung for viewing by all who are members of the agency's groups and subgroups, including staff and parents. Likewise, the administrator of a subgroup (ie. one county within a

statewide account) can hang a handout available only to members of that subgroup.

Any Word document, PDF or single-file webpage (html) file can be uploaded as a Handout. Information can relate to a FPC course, your agency's policies, event flyers, copies of monthly report forms, truly anything you like. Administrators access this tool through their Group Navigator page; parents access the handouts from their Personal Home Pages. This tool is there for you to use however your agency chooses, and it is free with an agency account.

Agencies are encouraged to put a staff member through the Certified Consultant Program training. The next 4-week training sessions start June 8 and September 7, with more sessions added as needed. To learn more about the CCP, follow this link: <http://www.fosterparentcollege.com/info/ccp-about.jsp>

## "Substance Exposed Infants" Available on FPC

Each year more than 400,000 babies are born in the U.S. who were exposed prenatally to controlled substances. Foster, adoptive and kinship parents face unique challenges when caring for these infants. The latest Foster Parent College (FPC) course, "Substance-Exposed Infants," sheds light on the physical and mental challenges these children face, gives an honest view of their long-term prognosis, and offers straightforward advice on nurturing these infants in a way that helps them thrive.

Dr. Robert Nickel, Susan Edelstein, MSW, and an experienced foster parent team up to discuss this topic. They cover the effects of legal and illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco; myths and misinformation about prenatal drug exposure; risks and protective factors; common medical and developmental issues; the effects of multiple drug use; normal behavioral states; and working with the child's professional team. Video clips clearly demonstrate recommended methods for soothing irritated, dysregulated babies and stimulating lethargic infants. Dr. Robert Nickel is a professor of pediatrics and developmental pediatrician at Oregon Health Sciences University. Susan Edelstein, MSW, is executive director of TIES for Adoption/UCLA.

"Substance-Exposed Infants" is available online at [www.FosterParentCollege.com](http://www.FosterParentCollege.com). This extended, in-depth class yields four training hours and costs two training units.

ADVD version is in production and will be for sale soon through [www.SocialLearning.com](http://www.SocialLearning.com). DVD versions of FPC classes are intended for group trainings and agency lending libraries. For more information about purchasing FPC on DVD, visit [www.SocialLearning.com](http://www.SocialLearning.com).

## What's Happening

**May Advanced Parenting Workshops** on Anger and Lying begin June 8. Completing a workshop yields 6 training hours and a certificate of completion. Enroll your parents today by visiting [www.FosterParentCollege.com](http://www.FosterParentCollege.com).

**The Canadian Foster Family Association** will hold its annual conference June 7 – 13 at the Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. "Walking Together, Voices for Change" is the theme for 2010 event, hosted by the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/2995ko3>.

**The location for the 24th Annual Conference on Treatment Foster Care has changed** due to extensive flooding at the originally scheduled site. The FFTA event will now be held August 1 – 4 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland (just south of Washington, DC). All costs will be the same as at the original site. Advertising, exhibit and sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information call (800) 414-3382 ext. 113; e-mail [mcole@ffta.org](mailto:mcole@ffta.org); or visit [www.ffta.org](http://www.ffta.org).

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**Submit your nominations for Champions for Children.** This regular column in *Connections* profiles foster parents, advocates, social workers, foster care alumni, etc. Please email a sentence or two about your nominees, along with their contact information, to Lisa at [press@northwestmedia.com](mailto:press@northwestmedia.com). Thanks.