

Lifelong Connections

In-Service e-Learning

Course Description

This comprehensive 3-hour eLearning supports caregivers in creating and maintaining lifelong relationships for children and youth in care. Throughout the course, participants will explore key connection areas - relational, physical, cultural, and legal - through the lens of Child Intervention Practice Principles. This course introduces 10 core strategies for lifelong connections, highlights the caregiver's role, and emphasizes practices that support identity, stability, and belonging.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the Child Intervention Practice Principles that inform the work of establishing and maintaining Lifelong Connections for children and youth (Indigenous experience, preserve family, strengths based, connection, collaboration and continuous improvement).
- Describe the four key areas of connection for children and youth (relational, physical, cultural and legal).
- Describe the 10 Practice Strategies for Lifelong Connections and their connection to the role of a caregiver.
- Enhance caregiver understanding of and commitment to the four foundational strategies for ensuring lifelong relationships for children and youth (cultural and spiritual connection, transition to adulthood, formalized connections, terminating permanent guardianship orders).
- Identify strategies to develop, support and maintain meaningful connections for children and youth.

Key Messages

- Strong, lasting relationships are essential for every child's well-being. Lifelong Connections are built through intentional, relationship-based practice that honors children's cultural identities, preserves family ties, and is guided by Child Intervention Practice Principles.
- Maintaining meaningful connections requires ongoing effort, commitment, and collaboration among caregivers, professionals, families, and communities.
- Connection is multi-faceted and must be nurtured across four key areas: relational, physical, cultural, and legal. Caregivers play a vital role in ensuring children experience belonging, identity, and stability in each of these domains.
- Caregivers are essential in creating and sustaining lifelong relationships. By applying the 10 Practice Strategies—and focusing on core areas like cultural connection, transition to adulthood, and permanency—caregivers help children and youth thrive now and into the future.

Guided Discussion Questions

- Child Intervention Practice Principles - Can you think of real-life examples where these principles were effectively applied or overlooked?
- How can caregivers actively support the four key areas of connection (relational, physical, cultural, and legal) in their daily interactions with children and youth?
- Which of the 10 Practice Strategies for Lifelong Connections do you find most relevant to your role as a caregiver and why?
- Reflecting on the four foundational strategies (cultural and spiritual connection, transition to adulthood, formalized connections, and terminating permanent guardianship orders), what challenges might arise in implementing them, and how can caregivers and practitioners work together to overcome these barriers?

Resources

1. Child intervention practice framework
Link: <https://www.alberta.ca/child-intervention-practice-framework>

2. Child Intervention Caregiver Package PS4LLC Practice Strategies for Lifelong Connections (CIPF)
Link: <https://alignab.ca/resource/alberta-ca-child-intervention-caregiver-package-ps4llc-practice-strategies-for-lifelong-connections-cipf/>
3. Alberta Foster and Kinship Association (AFKA) Caregiver Supports Program
Link: <https://afkaonline.ca/programs/caregiver-support-program/>
4. Children and Family Services Family Enhancement Policy
Link: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/3607542>