

Working with First Nations Families and Children – A Framework for Understanding e-learning course

This course is designed to assist non-Aboriginal practitioners to develop the skills and understanding to build genuine partnerships with First Nations children, families and communities.

The course invites practitioners to approach this learning with curiosity, and with a willingness to reflect on the cultural lens everyone brings to interactions with First Nations families, as well as considering the impact this has on engagement with those families.

The course provides a Framework for Understanding that will enhance practitioner's engagement with First Nations families and is based on the narratives and lived-experience of First Nations Peoples.

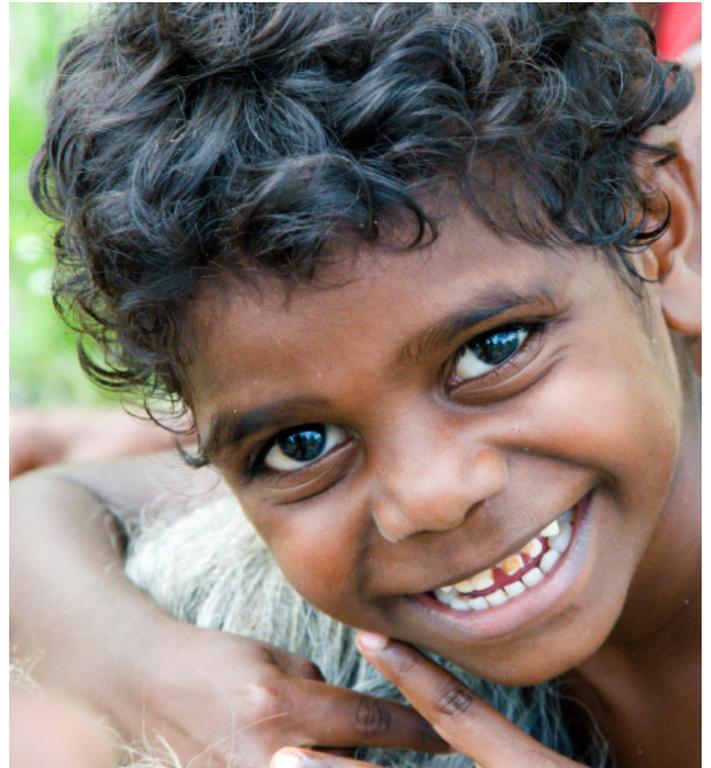
Who is this course for?

This course is for non-Aboriginal practitioners who work with First Nations children, families, and communities.

Why was this course developed?

The barriers to mainstream service providers working with First Nations families and communities are well researched. At times, these barriers can seem impenetrable and positive practice can seem out of reach. With First Nations children disproportionately represented in child protection, homelessness services and juvenile justice systems, we know that mainstream services increasingly must work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, their families and their communities and must be able to do this effectively.

At times this story of over-representation and disadvantage shapes our interactions and can create a story that might be for some but is not for all. How do you get to know the families and avoid getting caught in a story potentially coloured by white ways of doing business?



This course has been developed from the Emerging Minds' *Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families and Children Toolkit*. It draws on the expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultants, practitioners, non-Aboriginal practitioners and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations. Rather than focusing on why it is difficult to engage with First Nations children, their families and communities, it will explore how non-Aboriginal practitioners and services can develop genuine connections with First Nations people and communities to create the best conditions for effective service delivery; services based on respect, learning and creating shared understandings.

How was this course developed?

This course was developed with support and guidance from First Nations peoples, to specifically support non-Aboriginal practitioners in mainstream organisations to engage with First Nations families.

Emerging Minds would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, children, practitioners and organisations have provided in the development of this course.

Emerging Minds would also like to recognise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander National Consultancy Members, and the dedicated professionals who inform our work for the wellbeing of First Nations children and families.

Course duration

This course will take approximately one hour and 30 minutes to complete, and includes readings, videos and reflective activities. It is designed to be undertaken individually, but can also be used as a prompt for conversations between colleagues.

Learning outcomes

This course will help you:

- understand the history and context of local First Nations communities, families and individuals
- gain a clearer understanding of the context of a presenting problem or issue within families' lives
- understand the worries, concerns and aspirations that families have regarding their children's social and emotional wellbeing
- develop a deeper understanding of the context of a First Nations families' experiences, and how this affects wellbeing, as well as contributes to the protective factors that help families recover
- broaden your understanding of the role and influence of kinship and family relationships in infants' and children's social and emotional wellbeing.

Assessment

All First Nations resources developed at Emerging Minds aim to 'decentre' the expert. With this fundamental principle in mind, and with guidance from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultancy group, this course will **not** provide you with a certificate.

The reasoning behind this is:

- Cultural competency trainings should be provided by First Nations Peoples and organisations.
- Emerging Minds does not endorse this resource being used to meet cultural training requirements.
- Engaging with, and valuing, local knowledge and connections is the core principle for any work with First Nations communities, and therefore takes precedence over a centralised training course.

Visit the course at:
learning.emergingminds.com.au

