Foster care and out of home care

Learning Pathway

Emerging Minds Learning

National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health

Start your learning here

Mental health is a vital component of a child's development and lifelong wellbeing. These courses have been developed to build your knowledge of child mental health and the opportunities you have to improve child outcomes.

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1 HR	Understanding child mental health This course explores mental health for children aged 0-12 years. It will help practitioners to identify the facts that support positive mental health in children.
3 HR	Intergenerational mental health This course supports professionals to apply an 'intergenerational lens' to their work, to better understand histories and impacts of family disadvantage.
1 HR	The impact of trauma on the child This course introduces key understandings about trauma and adversity, and their impact on children.
4HR	Supporting children who have experienced trauma This course aims to use trauma-informed practice to study the detail and skills of therapeutic engagement.
2 HR	Engaging with parents This course focuses on ways to actively and effectively engage with parents about their children's social and emotional wellbeing.
1 HR	Engaging with children This course introduces the concepts of engaging children as partners in practice, as a foundation for responding to child mental health concerns.
1.5 HR	Working with First Nations families and children - A framework for understanding This course is designed to assist non-Aboriginal practitioners to develop the skills and understanding to

Courses tailored to your needs

These courses introduce practice-based learning and application to match the specific challenges your sector faces.

1 HR	Building blocks for children's social and emotional wellbeing This course explores important concepts and ideas related to child mental health and development, and investigates the child's social and emotional wellbeing within the context of their family, community and networks.
1 HR	Understanding child mental health and disability This course explores mental health for children aged O-12 years who are living with disability.
1 HR	Understanding child mental health and chronic physical conditions This course will provide you with an introduction to the impact of chronic physical conditions on the mental health of children aged 0–12 years.

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Supporting resources

The following resources are specific to your practice setting and support the knowledge gained throughout the courses we've recommended. Make sure to save your favourite resources by adding them to My List when you're logged in.

Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children Toolkit

This toolkit has been developed with support and guidance from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to support non-Aboriginal practitioners in mainstream organisations to engage with First Nations families.

Therapeutic residential care: The example of Jo's Podcast

How do you create a family environment for young people in residential out-of-home care? Service Manager, Paula May, talks us through her experience of setting up and managing a therapeutic youth residential care program.

Collaborative practice in child and family welfare: Building practitioners' competence Webinar

This webinar explored strategies for improving crosssectoral relationships between child protection and government and non-government partners.

Resilience In focus

Learn more about developing an understanding the broader context of a child's experience, with the aim of identifying positive relationships, strengths and opportunities for promoting resilience.

Engaging with parents who have children in out-of-home care: Key considerations

Practice paper

This resource outlines some of the key considerations for engaging with parents or caregivers who have children living in out-of-home care, and encourages you to reflect on the relevance of these issues to your own practice.

To view all e-learning courses and resources visit

build genuine partnerships.

