



FACTOR-INWENTASH

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

AN EVALUATION OF PATHWAYS TO PERMANENCE 2: PARENTING CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA AND LOSS ©

THE PROGRAM

- Pathways to Permanence 2 (Pathways) is an 8-session curriculum designed for adoptive, kinship, and customary care families who are parenting children who have experienced trauma and loss as a part of their history
- The original curriculum was created in 1998 at the request of the Orange County Social Services Agency in partnership with the Kinship Center (Salinas, California). The curriculum for Pathways has been refined and informed by ACT (The Adoption and Permanency Curriculum for professionals), also developed by the Kinship Center
- The trauma, development, attachment and strength-based model introduces participants to 7 Core Issues of adoption and permanence: loss, rejection, guilt & shame, grief, identity, intimacy and mastery
- The program helps parents and caregivers to recognize, identify, and address the core issues of adoption and become empowered to apply tools and techniques to effectively parent their children
- All Pathways trainers must complete fidelity logs to ensure that the the curriculum is being delivered as intended, further adding to the strength of the program
- For more information, visit <https://www.adoption.on.ca/pathways-to-permanence-2>

EVALUATION & METHODOLOGY

To measure the program's impact, a Summative Evaluation Study is underway. Participants complete pre- and post-training measures that collect demographic information and program satisfaction. They also complete psychometric measures, incl. a stress index, resiliency scale and child behaviour checklist. This allows researchers to measure how well the Pathways to Permanence 2 training works to increase parenting skills proficiency, improve parent-child relationships, and reduce parental stress. These measures are administered both before and immediately after the course to measure any changes that could be attributed to the program. There will also be a follow-up 6-12 months after the training to measure if the new knowledge has led to changes in family functioning. Preliminary results show an increase in parent reports of competency and increased understanding of child behavior.

TESTIMONIALS

Since beginning to offer the program in late 2015, Pathways has been provided 36 times to over 25 communities with more than 500 parents and caregivers. Over 90% of participants rated the training as "very good" or "excellent". In addition, when asked whether they would recommend the program to other families, over 90% indicated that they "definitely would".

"Pathways training helped me better understand that there are root causes, past traumas and other experiences that impact my child's behaviors and brain, and taught me to be more thoughtful in trying to assess those before 'reacting' to behaviors."

"Excellent initiative that must be continued! We need the support and information that it provides as our children have unique needs and it's quite isolating feeling you're the only one experiencing what we experience as an adoptive family."

"Loved this training, had many lightbulb moments of understanding. So helpful. Have used this information daily since learning it."



Kids Need Families
and Families Need Support