

Attachment and Maltreatment

Program Description

In this workshop, participants will explore normal attachment and how this attachment is formed. We will also discuss the issues and causes of maladapted attachment, indicators and how to provide supportive services to foster secure attachment in these children. We will examine the latest research about brain trauma in early childhood, its impact on attachment, and the powerful role quality care giving plays in helping heal this trauma in order to achieve better outcomes for our children and families.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Define attachment and list qualities of secure attachment.
2. Define the difference in attachment and bonding.
3. Explain the stages of attachment and the outcomes of secure attachment at different developmental stages.
4. List factors contributing to insecure attachment.
5. Discuss behavioral symptoms in children with significant difficulties with attachment.
6. List goals for healing the trauma and ways that workers and caregivers can support healing and healthy attachments in traumatized children.

Target Audience

All health care, mental health and human service professionals including psychologists, counselors, social workers, therapists, child welfare workers, educators, and law enforcement.

Contact Hours

6.0 hours – can adapt for online or classroom; 4.0, 3.0 or 1.5 hours

Program Agenda

- I. Define attachment and qualities of secure attachment
- II. Stages of attachment
- III. Outcomes of secure attachment
- IV. Factors contributing to insecure attachment
- V. Behavioral symptoms in children with attachment difficulties (case study)
- VI. The brain and trauma
- VII. Healing and supporting children with attachment difficulties

Faculty

Kathy D. Johnson, MS

Kathy retired as a Clinical Assistant Professor on the faculty at the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Jordan Institute for Families where she developed classroom and eLearning curricula and trained child welfare workers statewide. Since retiring she was employed as a crisis counselor at InterAct Family Empowerment Center where she worked with victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Ms. Johnson has experience as a teacher for the hearing impaired in both residential and public settings; as an educational consultant for training public school teachers; and as a Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services Investigator in two county departments of social services. She also conducted abuse and neglect investigations in child care statewide as an Abuse and Neglect Consultant for the Division of Child Development; worked as both an adult and CPS policy consultant for the NC Division of Social Services; and was a criminal justice expert and instructor for the NC State Bureau of Investigations for 10 years, where she trained

SBI special agents and other law enforcement officers statewide regarding investigations and forensic interviewing in child sexual abuse and child pornography cases.

Ms. Johnson is a Federal Grant Reviewer for the Administration on Children and Families; a certified criminal justice instructor; a certified suicide intervention instructor; she was on the faculty of the NC Victim Assistance Network Victim Practitioner's Academy; past chair of the Intentional Death Committee of the NC Child Fatality Task Force and past president of the North Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. She was secretary and currently chairs the State Chapter Committee of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Board of Directors. Kathy has been reelected to serve a third term on the Board of Directors of the Masonic Home for Children in Oxford, North Carolina and is chair of the Marketing Committee. Of special interest to her is a small orphanage in Port-au-Prince, Haiti where she serves on the Board of Directors of the Yahve Jire Children's Foundation USA.

In 2013 she was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Pat McCoy, the highest award given to honor exemplary service in North Carolina for serving the people of North Carolina.