

# WHY RELATIONSHIPS MATTER



**{ This online course is now available at your convenience! }**

*On-demand distance learning video course for social work practitioners and child welfare workers. Professionals, like counselors, educators or CASA/GAL, and caregivers who support children in foster care may also find this beneficial.*

**PRICE:** \$79

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** 2 general credit hours (pending accreditation)

**COURSE LEVEL:** Intermediate

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Discover the power of relationships in child welfare and learn how to be a facilitator of these important connections! The Why Relationships Matter course delves into the crucial role that relationships play in the lives of families, children, youth, and young adults in the child welfare system. Learn the foundational components of trauma to create better solutions that facilitate healing through meaningful, committed connections. Explore how these connections provide safety and stability, and learn how maintaining and rediscovering connections are vital to healing trauma and instilling a strong sense of self-identity. Discover a better way to support the well-being of families, children, youth, and young adults served by the child welfare system and effectively break the cycle of generational trauma.

**COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:** CE certificate will be issued once the entire video has been watched, passing score of 100% on the post-test, and completed course evaluation. The post-test is available through the website once the course is complete and can be taken multiple times to reach a score of 100%. To request the course evaluation, email [support@connectourkids.org](mailto:support@connectourkids.org).

**ACCESS:** On-demand video and registration information available on Connect Our Kids University website: <https://connectourkids.org/university/>. This course can be accessed on a desktop, laptop, or tablet device with a standard operating system, using a modern web browser like Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Edge. Mobile access is not recommended. Video completed on 6/28/24.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** If you are in need of ADA accommodations, please contact our CE Director at [support@connectourkids.org](mailto:support@connectourkids.org).

## THE COURSE CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS:

### 1) Why Relationships Matter

For our whole life, from beginning to end, we're 'in' relationships. All kinds of relationships. How do we learn all the skills we need to create and sustain these meaningful relationships?



### 2) The Trouble With Trauma

It's important for us to understand the lingering effects of childhood trauma so we can better create pathways to healing for vulnerable children and teens.

We cannot heal what we cannot acknowledge; we're going to explore some foundational components in childhood trauma so we can better create solutions that facilitate healing for children and teens.

### 3) Connections That Heal

Yes, connections heal trauma. But not just any connections; sustained, meaningful, committed connections: What we call relational permanency, Getting Kids Connected, and Keeping Kids Connected is our mission.



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## Learning Objectives:

### Show the significance of relationships:

- *Examine and explain the central role that relationships play in human development, as emphasized by experts like Peter Benson and Dr. Dan Siegel.*
- *Explain how connections with family, friends, and others contribute to the shaping of neural connections and overall well-being.*

### Examine the impact of attachment on brain development:

- *Describe the components of the developing brain, including the limbic system, brain stem, and cortex, and their respective contributions to emotional, social, and cognitive development.*
- *Analyze the implications of secure parent-child attachment relationships on maximizing developmental buckets and fostering executive functioning.*

### Explain the challenges and consequences of developmental trauma:

- *Identify the potential challenges faced by individuals, especially teens and young adults, who have experienced developmental trauma.*
- *Summarize the lingering effects of childhood trauma on areas such as emotional regulation, relationships, and overall well-being, as illustrated by real-life stories and statistics.*

## MEET THE CURRICULUM CREATORS



**Allison Davis Maxon, M.S., LMFT** is a nationally recognized expert in the fields of child welfare and children's mental health specializing in Attachment, Complex Developmental Trauma, and Permanency/Adoption. She is the Executive Director of the National Center on Adoption and Permanency and was the foster care consultant for the Paramount Pictures movie *Instant Family*. Allison was honored in 2017 with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute 'Angels in Adoption' award and is the co-author of *Seven Core Issues in Adoption and Permanency: A Guide to Promoting Understanding and Healing in Adoption, Foster Care, Kinship Families and Third Party Reproduction*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers (2019) and *The Seven Core Issues Workbook for Parents of Traumatized Children and Teens: A Guide to Help You Explore Feelings and Overcome Emotional Challenges in Your Family*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers (2022). Her newest book is *The Seven Core Issues in Adoption and Permanency Workbook for Children and Teens: A Trauma-Informed Resource*, Jessica Kingsley Publishers (2023).



**Karen Coates, MSW, LICSW**, is a dedicated professional social worker with over thirty years of experience working with youth and their families. In fifteen of those years, Karen's primary focus was keeping youth in foster care connected with their kin. When no known kin were able to be a support, she diligently searched for the long-lost relatives and connections for our most deserving youth. Karen enjoys utilizing her knowledge, skills, and values to meet the needs of children, youth, families, and communities through social justice advocacy and compassionate strength-based service.



Refund Policy: All sales are final.  
For questions or grievances, please contact our CE Director at [support@connectourkids.org](mailto:support@connectourkids.org).

*Why Relationships Matter*, course #5953, is approved by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program to be offered by Connect Our Kids as an individual course. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. ACE course approval period: [dates]. Social workers completing this course receive 2 general continuing education credits.