

Brief Overview:

Normalize the need to ask for services and the importance of being a life-long learner, recognize the need to become an advocate for children to ensure they get the services they need; recognize the importance of developing a support network (school, community supports, friends, medical), understand the types of services available including counseling for trauma and loss; understand the importance of medical/developmental screening and counseling; understand the value of support groups and peer-to-peer programs.

Knowledge Competencies:

- Know key strategies to become an effective advocate for children.
- Understand the benefits of a support network and strategies to develop this type of network.
- Aware of the various types of services and supports available to children and the parents who are fostering and/or adopting them.

Attitude Competencies:

- Believe seeking services and supports for both the child and parent who is fostering and/or adopting is a sign of strength.
- Believe it is helpful for the children and for the parent the fostering or adopting parent(s) to have access to a therapeutic network.
- Believe in advocating for the needs of children.
- Willing to seek out resources and assistance for any member of the family, including myself.

Target Audience:

This right time theme is applicable to parents who are fostering or adopting that are not related, kinship caregivers, and foster and adoptive parents who are American Indian Alaska Native, and parents who have adopted private domestically or via the intercountry process.