



IRISH FOSTERCARE
ASSOCIATION

Building Bridges

for successful contact

1st Floor, The Pharmacy,
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“Building Bridges”

This is an interactive workshop that explores key issues around contact and access from different perspectives. This is achieved through the sharing of experiences and participation in group discussions and exercises.

Why Attend?

- ❑ To gain a greater understanding of the importance of family contact for a young person’s identity, continuity and self-esteem.
- ❑ To develop a greater understanding of each other’s roles and responsibilities in relation to contact.
- ❑ To enhance our skills by exploring possible difficulties and devising creative solutions.

External Evaluation

Anne McCarthy (Researcher) who externally evaluated this course stated, "This session covered a complex and very difficult topic. It was obvious that the participants enjoyed themselves and were informed about the issues. A variety of approaches were used and the exercises provoked good lively discussions."

Course Content

- ❑ Identifying the legal framework.
- ❑ Exploring different ways of keeping in contact.
- ❑ Looking at ways of making contact more meaningful and child-centred.
- ❑ Emphasising the importance of siblings, parents and extended family.

- ❑ Raising awareness about expectations and feelings that can arise for children and young people.
- ❑ Developing strategies for working together.
- ❑ Making the link between contact, placement stability and positive outcomes.

Comments from participants

- ❑ The response from participants to the program is extremely positive and some of the comments included:

"That was brilliant", "I learned a lot" and "I really enjoyed it".

Building and maintaining bridges is a collective responsibility to enable a child to make a successful transition to adulthood.



Booking Information

The course will be of benefit to all foster carers, social workers, child care workers and health professionals involved in foster care.

The maximum numbers of participants per course is 20.

The three-hour course can be run over a morning, afternoon or evening.

Course fee is available on request and includes facilitators' expenses, fees and handout material.

The health board / agency is responsible for venue, equipment and refreshments.

The Irish Foster Care Association requires a minimum of six weeks notice prior to the course being available.



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