

TRANSRACIAL PARENTING INITIATIVE:
SUPPORT FOR FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENTS

blend EDUCATION & TRAINING INC. Presented by: Susan Crawford, MSW, RSW

About Blend Education & Training Inc.

Our Mission

- To provide programs and services to support multiracial children and families and the professionals who serve them.

Company Profile

- Blend Education & Training Inc. offers coaching, consultation and training in the areas of multicultural family programming, transracial parenting, professional development training, and youth workshops.

Curriculum Objectives

- Assist participants in identifying their strengths and limitations parenting transracially
- Challenge participants to think critically about race, culture and privilege for both themselves and their child
- Provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on their motivation and commitment to raising a multiracial/cultural family
- Offer concrete tools, strategies and recommendations that will help participants explore the unique journey of parenting transracially

Project Activities

Since 2007, the following Activities have been completed:

- Literature Review
- Online survey & focus groups
- Curriculum development
- Parent take away resource
- Educational training video
- Pilot training sessions

Curriculum

This curriculum will:

- Allow participants to engage in critical self reflection on issues of race, culture and privilege in Canadian society.
- Provide a space for prospective applicants to identify their strengths and areas for growth before making the decision to parent transracially.
- Address the need for a pre-assessment tool that is focused specifically on transracial issues in foster care and adoption from a Canadian perspective.

Training Delivery

This training consists of three units designed to introduce participants to issues in transracial parenting. The training material can be delivered in the following ways:

- a) Two consecutive days - one evening, and one full day.
- b) Three consecutive days or evenings
- c) Three days or evenings per month
- d) Online (via Skype)

Participant Learning Goals

- **Explore** their personal racial heritage and privilege as well as recognize the status of race relations in Canada.
- **Identify** general and personal issues and challenges associated with having a transracial adoptive/foster family.
- **Acknowledge** personal strengths and limitations regarding parenting in a transracial adoptive/foster family.
- **Generate** specific steps and measures they can take to support their child's racial/cultural identity development within a transracial family.
- **Feel** empowered to advocate for self, child and family and identify areas where they feel support is needed.

Unit 1

Challenges and issues in transracial foster care, adoption and family development

- Exploring the unique experience of transracial parenting
- Examining the skills and competencies necessary for successful transracial parenting
- Learning to see the world through the eyes of your child

Participant Learning Objectives

- Share learning goals and session expectations and transracial parenting apprehensions.
- Increase understanding of the principal issues of transracial parenting.
- Gain insights of underlying issues that make transracial parenting unique.
- Better understand the questions and concerns they may have related to transracial parenting.

Unit 2

Race, Culture, Privilege – for you, your child and other members of the family

- Understanding influences of our social circles, community and extended family
- Exploring the impact of privilege, social location and identity for you and your child
- Ways to achieve family synthesis

Participant Learning Objectives

- Examine the influence social circles, community and extended family members have on a multicultural family.
- Reflect on how race, culture and the spectrum of privilege affect themselves, their child and other members of their family.
- Gain a better understanding of race, privilege and difference and how they play out in our lives.

Unit 3

Tools, strategies and recommendations to help you navigate the unique journey of parenting transracially

- Preparing to answer tough/personal questions about parenting transracially
- Identifying your strengths and limitations to parent transracially
- Developing the knowledge, skills and values you need in order to enhance your ability to parent transracially

Participant Learning Objectives

- Learn concrete tools, strategies and recommendations that will help them navigate the unique journey of transracial parenting.
- Generate specific steps they will take to enhance their competency to parent transracially.
- Feel empowered to advocate for self, child and family.
- Identify areas where they feel in need of support and/or continued growth.

Ready. Willing. Able? Perspectives on transracial parenting in Canada

**** A CANADIAN TRAINING DVD EXPLORING TRANSRACIAL PARENTING****

Presents first hand experiences from families, practitioners and adoptees to further delve into prevalent issues of parenting transracially.

- Round table discussion
- Documentary

Parent Take Away Resource

The Parent Take Away Resource (PTAR) is a learning tool designed to help participants engage in critical self-reflection throughout the duration of their transracial adoption or foster care journey. The PTAR is a collection of self-reflective activities, reading materials, resources and questions to help parents critically assess their ability to commit to parenting transracially and supporting their children. It was designed using feedback from Canadian adoptive and foster parents, adoptees and professionals who generously shared their expertise through the online survey, focus groups and consultation.

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