

Trauma Specialist Certification Information Sheet

A promotional poster for a Trauma Specialist Certification Course. The background is dark blue. In the top left, there is a photo of a man in an orange shirt lifting a young child into the air. The title 'Trauma Specialist Certification Course' is written in a yellow, cursive font. Below the title, the text 'classes via zoom' is written in red, italicized font with a white underline. In the center, white text reads: 'PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION TO JOIN THE WAITLIST AND BE NOTIFIED OF UPCOMING CLASSES OR REQUEST A WORKSHOP FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION'. In the bottom right, there is a photo of several hands of different colors (red, white, blue) stacked on top of each other. There are white brushstroke-like graphics in the corners.

Unfortunately, children are still suffering from the trauma of neglect, rejection, abandonment, and abuse—but it is being inflicted at a greater level of intensity. Our children need and deserve a greater level of trauma-informed care, that is responsive in both word and deed. To achieve this, adults need to be armed with greater tools and empowered to infuse them in every aspect of engagement with children.

This trauma-informed specialist certification is grounded in transformative learning theory which will allow participants to construct new meaning from the traumatic experiences of the children and youth they work with. This reinterpretation will encourage task-oriented problem-solving on ways to foster healing and transformation for children.

The level of engagement and rigor of the course require a high level of commitment that is different from what many caregivers are accustomed to when completing their annual hours. Therefore, Students are selected for the course after completing an application process and attending orientation. The certification has two levels: Trauma Specialist I and Trauma Specialist II. Those selected for the course will participate in an 18-hour module to become Specialist I. They may enroll in the additional 12-hour module to become Specialist II. Classes are held in either two-hour or three-hour increments, depending upon the host site. Students will have weekly graded assignments, a mid-term assessment, and a final project at the end of each module. Caregivers who do not wish to complete the certification process, can enroll through FKCE, if the college is the host site, to attend the individual weekly classes, and receive credit for RFA renewal hours.

The instructor, Theresa Reed, is a former foster youth, a Foster/Kinship Care Education (FKCE) program director, and the author of the *It's Not Drama, It's Trauma* book series.

To enroll in the course, please complete the application at the bottom of the webpage. For more information, please email us at TheTraumaCollective@gmail.com.