

Fostering Hope and Attachment with Youth in Foster and Adoptive Families

This training will strengthen our understanding of why detachment and hopelessness “make sense” as survival strategies, and will empower foster and adoptive parents with concrete, practical tools we can use with our youth across the developmental spectrum—from babies to teens. These practices support children and youth in strengthening their ability to attach emotionally to individuals, families, groups, and the community—and enhance our success with all the children and youth in our lives. As attachment and connections grow, hope will flourish.

Trainers: Lois Smidt & Krista Penrod

Lois Smidt, Community Organizer, educator, and consultant to child protective and foster care systems internationally, including Iowa Community Partnerships for Protecting Children, and Iowa Youth Dream Teams. Krista Penrod is a Foster and Adoptive Care Alumni, Elevate leader, and consultant to Iowa Youth Dream Teams and other efforts to attach transitioning youth from foster care to community.