

Working with Birth Families

This training will explore the role of foster parents in working with birth families. This training will look at how the foster parent/birth parent relationship has changed over the years and with that change the expectation that foster families become more involved with birth families to better work toward positive outcomes. This class will provide an opportunity to better understand the birth family perspective. We will examine some of the modern social issues faced by birth families and how these barriers can impact their ability to succeed. We will also examine the grief and loss process and how it affects both birth families as well as foster families. We will discuss strategies for working more effectively with birth families to achieve more positive outcomes for children in foster care.

Trainer: Mike McGuire

Mike McGuire and his wife Christie are licensed foster and adoptive parents as well as the IFAPA Peer Liaison in the Mason City area. Mike has provided many trainings throughout the state on a variety of topics for foster/adoptive parents. Mike has also facilitated a variety of educational groups relating to relationships, parenting, and communication. He works for the Dept. of Corrections as a Probation/Parole officer and currently coordinates the Cerro Gordo County Community Drug Court program.