

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual NEORTC  
Foster Parent Conference**

**Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
May 4, 5, and 6, 2017**



# Schedule at a Glance

## Thursday, May 4

Registration begins at 8:30am

Concurrent Sessions Choose ONE of the following full day sessions

**9:00am – 4:00pm** #926-13 Keep Your Cool:  
Anger and Stress Management Jody Johnston-Pawel

**9:00am – 4:00pm** #924-47 Moves Hurt Kids: Supporting Child  
Development by Promoting Placement Stability Ronna Johnson

Concurrent Sessions Choose ONE of the following evening sessions

Registration begins at 5:30pm

**6:00pm – 9:00pm** #925-115 When Children Fight Susan Tucker

**6:00pm – 9:00pm** #989-65 Understanding and Managing the Stress  
Of Caregiving Karen Vadino

## Friday, May 5

Registration begins at 8:30am

**9:00am – 4:00pm** #925-23 Tug of War: The Ins and Outs of Power  
Struggles Jim Still-Pepper

**9:00am – 12:00pm** #947-7 The Difference: What Makes Foster  
Families Effective - **NEW** Paula Kyle-Stephens

**1:00pm – 4:00pm** #941-50 Helping Foster Children and Youth  
Develop Appropriate Social Skills and  
Manners - **NEW** Paula Kyle-Stephens

Concurrent Sessions Choose ONE of the following evening sessions

Registration begins at 5:30pm

**6:00pm – 9:00pm** #988-7 Don't Talk...Don't Trust...Don't Feel:  
Growing Up with an Addicted Parent Brian Lowery

**6:00pm – 9:00pm** #949-2 Talking to Children About Difficult  
Information Arleta James

# Saturday, May 6

Registration begins at 8:30am

**9:00am - 4:00pm #923-80** Parenting Boys and Girls: The Art of Understanding Their Differences - **NEW**

John Ward

**9:00am - 12:00pm #941-49** In Pursuit of Permanence - **NEW**

Amanda Davis

**1:00pm - 4:00pm #949-58** Sibling Relationships: A Personal and Professional Perspective - **NEW**

Amanda Davis

## Conference Location

Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center at Summit County Children Services

264 South Arlington Street

Akron, OH 44306

330-379-1805



## Registration

Public agency foster parents can register through E-Track using the learning codes provided .

Private agency foster parents can register by calling our toll free number at 1-866-294-3787

There is no charge to attend the Foster Parent Conference

## Questions?

Contact Julie Hayden at 330-379-1976 or [jhayden@summitkids.org](mailto:jhayden@summitkids.org)

or Debbie Huff at 330-379-1931 or [dhuff@summitkids.org](mailto:dhuff@summitkids.org)

or Vickie Webb at 330-379-1935 or [webbv@summitkids.org](mailto:webbv@summitkids.org)

The Ohio Child Welfare Training Program is an approved Continuing Education Provider through the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family Therapist Board.

Social Worker Approved Provider # RSX 088728

Counselor Approved Provider # RCX 039201



## Thursday, May 4

Two Concurrent Sessions – Please Choose One to Attend

**9:00am – 4:00pm**      **Keep Your Cool: Anger and Stress Management**

Presenter: Jody Johnston-Pawel

E-Track Learning Code: 926-13

This informative workshop explores myths and bubbles over with practical ideas you can use immediately. Discover the two simple steps for helping any child create an individualized stress and anger management plan. Learn the secrets of preventing stress and anger build-ups. Get dozens of ideas for appropriate ways children and adults can express anger appropriately, and practical tips for defusing and redirecting an angry child.

**9:00am – 4:00pm**      **Moves Hurt Kids: Supporting Child Development by Promoting Placement Stability**

Presenter: Ronna Johnson

E-Track Learning Code: 924-47

Placement instability is hurting children in foster care. The longer a child remains in foster care, the more likely it is that he or she will experience multiple placements (Noonan, Rubin, et al 2009). Research supports that positive developmental progress is fostered through consistent, intimate, and caring relationships. When placement instability is coupled with a child's trauma history, the developmental risks are even greater. This workshop will explore: the 10 guiding principles of child development, the factors that increase the risk of placement instability, potential developmental repercussions of multiple placements, and strategies that support child development by promoting placement stability.

## Thursday, May 4

Two Concurrent Sessions – Please Choose One to Attend

**6:00pm – 9:00pm**      **When Children Fight**

Presenter: Susan Tucker

E-Track Learning Code: 925-115

This course is designed to assist caregivers in understanding the sources of conflict between children in their homes, whether the children are their biological children or children who are placed in their homes

for foster care or adoption. Participants will learn effective prevention strategies and intervention techniques that reduce conflict and encourage positive interaction.

**6:00pm – 9:00pm**      **Understanding and Managing the Stress of Caregiving**

Presenter: Karen Vadino  
E-Track Learning Code: 989-65

One of the ways substance abuse affects the children in our care and the families who care for them is stress. This workshop is designed to help foster parents recognize the stress involved in caring for children of addicted birth parents. Participants will become aware of their own stress levels and discover some healthy and effective methods to reduce their stress.

## **Friday, May 5**

**9:00am – 4:00pm**      **Tug of War: The Ins and Outs of Power Struggles**

Presenter: Jim Still-Pepper  
E-Track Learning Code: 925-23

Whether it is an all-out battle of the wills, button-pushing, or manipulation, Tug of War will explore the "battles" parents often engage in with kids, and consider strategies for disengagement without creating more problems.

**9:00am – 12:00pm**      **The Difference: What Makes Foster Families Effective - NEW**

Presenter: Paula Kyle-Stephens  
E-Track Learning Code: 947-7

This workshop will re-energize and re-confirm foster parents in their efforts to make a difference in the lives of foster youth of today. Through the telling of her story, the trainer helps caregivers to identify what makes "the difference" - the characteristics of a caring and truly committed foster home. Participants will understand the importance of making an effort each day to show the youth how to be a survivor; to love, nurture, and build self-worth; and to encourage the youth and build his/her confidence to become a productive part of society.

**1:00pm – 4:00pm**      **Helping Foster Children and Youth Develop Appropriate Social Skills and Manners - NEW**

Presenter: Paula Kyle-Stephens  
E-Track Learning Code: 941-50

When children and youth learn manners and situational etiquette, they build self-confidence which assists in developing motivation and reaching educational and social success in their future careers. This workshop provides fun, easy, and consistent ideas on how to teach basic social skills, manners, and etiquette. It is designed to address learning for children of all ages.

## Friday, May 5

Two Concurrent Sessions – Please Choose One to Attend

**6:00pm – 9:00pm**      **Don't Talk...Don't Trust...Don't Feel: Growing Up  
With an Addicted Parent**

Presenter: Brian Lowery  
E-Track Learning Code: 988-7

This class will give trainees an understanding of the dynamics of growing up in a home where one of the primary caregivers is abusing substances or is addicted. We will examine roles children take on to meet their needs and bring balance to their family, and how those roles may transfer into the foster home. Foster caregivers will be armed with tools and strategies to support these children during out-of-home placement and upon return.

**6:00pm – 9:00pm**      **Talking to Children About Difficult Information**

Presenter: Arleta James  
E-Track Learning Code: 949-2

Foster parents, adoptive parents and social workers are often left with the daunting task of explaining to children why they needed to be removed from their birth families, why they are unable to return to their birth home, and explanations of the abuse and/or neglect suffered prior to placement in out-of-home care. This very interactive workshop demonstrates how to make and use a timeline to help children understand their past as well as future living plans. Throughout each stage of constructing the timeline, concrete ways to explain each event in the child's life are put forth. This training also suggests children's books that prove valuable in helping children integrate their past and present.

## Saturday, May 6

**9:00am – 4:00pm**      **Parenting Boys and Girls: The Art of Understanding  
Their Differences - NEW**

Presenter: John Ward  
E-Track Learning Code: 923-80

Often, parents need some guidance with understanding their children's perspectives. As every parent knows, parenting children can at times be more of an art than a science. This class will focus on some of the physical, social, emotional, and developmental elements of parenting boys and girls. The class will also help parents to better understand some of the inherent differences between girls and boys. Useful tools will be provided to help communicate and connect with children of all ages, and reveal six steps to help boys and girls grow up to be happy, healthy adults.

**9:00am – 12:00pm**      **In Pursuit of Permanence - NEW**

Presenter: Amanda Davis  
E-Track Learning Code: 941-49

This training is adapted, with permission, from "Lifelong Connections: Permanency for Older Youth" by the National Resource Center for Youth Development, 2012. This workshop addresses how to define permanency with youth, provides an overview of youth aging out of care, explores why youth resist discussions about their independence, and provides strategies and tools for helping youth to identify permanent connections as they age out of care.

**1:00pm – 4:00pm**      **Sibling Relationships: A Personal and Professional  
Perspective - NEW**

Presenter: Amanda Davis  
E-Track Learning Code: 949-58

This training discusses the bond of siblings, reasons siblings cannot always be placed together, and strategies for strengthening and maintaining the sibling bond.

# Facilitators

## **Amanda Davis**

Amanda Davis, B.S., graduated with a bachelor of science in Social Work from The Ohio State University. Her experience in foster care and being adopted gave her a passion for the child welfare system. She has spoken locally and nationally on behalf of today's foster youth.

## **Arleta James**

(M.S., L.P.C.C.)- Ms. James is a Child and Adolescent Therapist with Dr. Gregory Keck at the Attachment and Bonding Center in Cleveland, Ohio. She has many years experience in adoption practice in the State of Pennsylvania, and was named the Adoption Worker of the Year in Pennsylvania.

## **Ronna Johnson**

Mrs. Johnson received her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing from Kent State University in 1980, and completed training for her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner National Certification through Metro Heath Medical Center in 1983. She has spent her entire career working with children with medical and developmental special needs. Since 1986 she has provided; training, support, consultation and case management services for program staff and Caregivers to promote best care for children with complex health and development needs who are being served through the Child Welfare System. Mrs. Johnson has been a foster and adoptive parent since 1994. Mrs. Johnson received the OCWTP 2011 Rising Star Award and the OCWTP 2013 Linda Pope Award.

## **Jody Johnston Pawel**

Jody Johnston Pawel, BSW, LSW, CFLE  
Ms. Pawel received her Bachelor of Social Work from Wright State University, specializing in child abuse research. She is a Certified Family Life Educator. Ms. Pawel has been involved in the child protective service field since 1981. As a caseworker, she was in the Sexual Abuse unit and on a multi-disciplinary community-based planning team. Since 1983, she has been training caseworkers, foster parents and birth parents.

## **Paula Kyle-Stephens**

Paula Kyle Stephens started life as an army brat, lost her mother at the age of 11 to substance abuse and mental illness, and entered the foster care system with her siblings. Paula is the founder of "Edge of Unthinkable, LLC". Focusing on foster care, she is an author, consultant, key note speaker, youth motivational speaker and trainer.

## **Brian Lowery**

Brian Lowery, MPA, LSW Mr. Lowery received his Masters of Public Administration from Cleveland State University. He is the Educational Coordinator of Lowery & Associates. He has served as the Director of In-Service Training for the largest private child caring agency in Ohio and as Director of Child Care at a Northeast Ohio residential treatment center. He currently serves as a consultant to contract agencies of the Cuyahoga County Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. He is the 2008 recipient of the "Rising Star Award" as the OCWTP New Trainer of the Year.

## **Jim Still-Pepper**

Jim Still-Pepper, L.S.W., is a therapist and consultant, having received his Master 's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Morehead State University in 1989. He is currently the School Services Coordinator at Six County Inc., a community mental health center, and works with children, teenagers, and their families. He has written more than seventy-five national publication credits, including publishing two books and co-authoring six. He is also an independent trainer in the field of child welfare, and received the Linda Pope "Trainer of the Year" award for the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program.

## **Susan Tucker**

Susan Tucker has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work from the University of Akron and a Masters in Clinical Social Work from the Ohio State University. She is a Licensed Independent Social Worker. Ms. Tucker worked within the Child Welfare system for many years, with Summit County Children Services, both as an employee and as a volunteer. Currently she is Community Outreach Director at Summit County Domestic Relations Court. She has developed a variety of community education initiatives in parenting, visitation and bullying.

## **Karen Vadino**

Karen Vadino has over 30 years' experience in the human services field, both as a clinician and as a trainer. She has experience as a supervisor in a Childrens Services agency where she supervised 14 child care workers. Karen is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with a Master's degree in Social Work. She is also a Certified Cognitive Behavioral Therapist and an Ohio Certified Prevention Specialist II. Karen has provided Stress and Wellness trainings for hundreds of social service workers over the past 25 years and has knowledge of proven techniques for managing stress and maintaining wellness.

## **John Ward**

John Ward holds a Master's Degree in Counseling from Logos University and Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Christian Life School of Theology and specializes in the area of Reactive Attachment Disorder, ADD and trauma related issues. John was a foster child, adopted child and a foster parent. He received the Rising Star Award for the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program in 2009, and the NEORTC 2015 Trainer of the Year. He is a master trainer for the Center for Adoption and Education. He has worked in the field of child welfare for over 20 years.