THE PROGRAM

- ACT is an 8-session curriculum designed for Ontario professionals working with children, youth and families, including: therapists, child welfare workers, child and youth workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, teachers, and education administrators.

- Developed in 1992 in partnership with the Kinship Center (Salinas, California), ACT has been refined and field-tested with more than 7,000 professionals over the last 20 years.

- ACT’s adoption and permanency curriculum informs and advances adoption practice and helps organizations to develop core competencies and a standardized program framework.

- The intensive and comprehensive course provides professionals with the theory and practice skills to assist families who are parenting children with a history of trauma and loss prior to the permanence of adoption, kinship, or customary care placement.

- All ACT trainers must complete fidelity logs to ensure that the curriculum is being delivered as intended, further adding to the strength of the program.

- For more information, visit https://www.adoption.on.ca/act-curriculum

EVALUATION & METHODOLOGY

To measure the program’s impact, a Summative Evaluation Study is underway. Participants complete pre- and post-training measures that collect demographic information and program satisfaction. They also complete a knowledge test. This allows researchers to measure how well the ACT training works to increase participants’ knowledge regarding the impact of trauma on adoptive children and their families. The knowledge tests are conducted both before and immediately after the training to measure any changes on knowledge. There will also be a follow-up 6-12 months after the training to measure if the new knowledge has led to changes in practice.

EFFECTIVENESS

In 2011, the Kinship Center Education Institute published findings1 from a survey of 653 ACT training graduates. 149 respondents returned the survey, and the results indicate that 92% of participants report using the tools, concepts, and information from ACT on (at least) a monthly basis. In addition, the Kinship Center attributes its successful program outcomes and <2% disruption rate to the skills and expertise that staff have acquired as a result of the ACT curriculum.

The Quality Improvement Center for Adoption & Guardianship Support and Preservation has designated the ACT program as an evidence level 4, otherwise known as a “Promising Practice”. 2


TESTIMONIALS

Since beginning to offer the program in the fall of 2015, ACT has been offered 10 times to over 150 professionals in Ontario.

“Relevant for all professionals and individuals touched by adoption. Truly appreciated the trainer’s clinical perspective.”

“It was very thorough and so applicable to the work I am doing.”