**ACT: An Adoption and Permanency Curriculum for Child Welfare and Mental Health Professionals**

ACT is a comprehensive and intensive curriculum that provides Child Welfare and Mental Health professionals with the theory and practice skills to help families who are parenting children and youth who have experienced trauma and loss prior to the permanence of adoption, kinship or customary care placement. This curriculum will help professionals develop competence in building and enhancing services for parents, children and youth including assessment, planning and therapeutic programs.

**Who should attend ACT:**

This curriculum is relevant for any professional who is working with children, youth and families including therapists, child welfare workers, child and youth workers, CMH case managers, psychologists, child and adolescent psychiatrists, teachers and education administrators.

**Your ACT Experience:**

- A multimedia intensive integration of strength-based mental health and permanency principles
- Immediate applicability to promote permanency and avoid disruption
- Case studies, practice tools and activities focused on the adult learner

**Dates and locations**

Visit us online for upcoming dates and locations across Ontario!

**Questions?**

Contact us directly at PACT@adoptontario.ca or 1.877.ADOPT.20

**Fees**

$1,300 per person. This includes a copy of the ACT Resource Manual.

*Pricing subject to change without notice.

Register at [www.adoption.on.ca/events](http://www.adoption.on.ca/events)
Overview of the Curriculum

Session 1: Permanence in Context
Session 2: Core Issues
Session 3: The Art and Science of Attachment
Session 4: A Developmental Perspective
Session 5: Family Constellation Challenges
Session 6: Supporting the Permanent Family
Session 7: Tools for Skilled Practice
Session 8: Diversity, Healing, and the Family

As a result of completing ACT, participants in their pre- and post permanency work will:

- Incorporate the model of the Seven Core Issues into the evaluation, education and service provided to families touched by adoption and other forms of permanency.
- Embrace the interrelated core principles of attachment and neurobiology; which include the impact of trauma in assessment.
- Understand the additional developmental challenges that adoption and permanence place on the child.
- Be able to assist parents to learn healthy attachment-based parenting skills.
- Acquire the skills and tools for working with the whole family system to maintain the child in a family setting.
- Recognize the complex issues that arise for today’s diverse family structures, including single parent families, relative adopters, domestic and internationally built families, trans-racial/trans-cultural families, and families with different types of openness and permanency arrangements.
- Respect the long term roles and needs of the birth family and the importance of their information and connections to the child.
- Competently address issues of search and reunion.
- Understand the significant influence of the child’s genetic history, race and culture.
- Value sibling relationships and their life-long importance.
- Accept the profound impact of placing a child into an established family structure.
- Be able to link community resources and mediations to the family.
- Learn to enhance family strengths and empower the family as an agent of change.
- Appreciate the additional tasks that kinship caregivers must address as family roles are changed in children’s lives.

Schedule:

The eight-day ACT curriculum is offered in various Ontario locations over a four-month period as follows:

Fall: September to December (two consecutive days per month)
Winter: January to April (two consecutive days per month)
Spring: March to June (two consecutive days per month)
Summer: July and August (four consecutive days each month)

“This curriculum should be required for anyone who is entering the field of adoption and permanence.”