



**The Adoption Council of Ontario (ACO) is excited to announce that all foster, kin, customary care and adoptive parents in Ontario now have an empirically evaluated parent training program called Pathways to Permanence available.**

**TORONTO, Ont. (May 25, 2021)**

Pathways to Permanence (“Pathways”) is a curriculum that was designed for foster, kinship, customary care and adoptive parents by the Kinship Center, a member of the Seneca Family of Agencies, to help them parent children and young people who have experienced trauma and loss.

It is offered in Ontario exclusively by the Adoption Council of Ontario. The Ministry of Child, Community and Social Services MCCSS has been funding Pathways for adoptive parents through the Adoption Council of Ontario since 2016.

Pathways is a very unique program and framework, it focuses on providing a “path” for parents to shift their parenting and approaches. Why is that important?

- This shift in parenting is challenging; it takes time and patience, and lots of practice
- Even kids with the highest risk for poorer outcomes (severe neglect/deprivation, many moves) can be helped with multi-dimensional supports including therapeutic parenting

Researchers at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, have recently published results of their evaluation on the effectiveness of the Pathways program. Pathways shows strong results: positive changes in parent resilience, family functioning, nurturing and attachment were indicated.

This independent evaluation of Pathways as a program that works for all resource parents in Ontario is a win for consistent and evaluated parenting approaches for children waiting for families and permanency in our province.

An article was published on May 14, 2021, in the *Adoption Quarterly* Journal which concluded that,

*“Given the pivotal role that resource parents have in promoting children’s well-being, it is critical that resource families have access to supportive services and that parent training programs that aim to assist them are empirically evaluated.”*



The ACO would like to extend its deepest appreciation to [Joanne Filippelli](#), [Barbara Fallon](#), [Susanne Truelsen](#) & [Jessica Carradine](#), at the University of Toronto for this evaluation and their hard work and commitment to this project.

**Pathways provides:**

Parents are often frustrated and at a loss as to why their kids are struggling and why they can't help them...Pathways provides a path.

Parents often see behaviour as problematic, it is actually a means of communication and Pathways provides an understanding of that communication.

Parents are often confused by what "form" of parenting works. Pathways provides a way for all children and youth who are in adoption and permanency and as a result have experienced trauma and loss to have a consistent approach from their foster parents, kin parents/families, adoptive and customary care families that works to understand and attune to the trauma and challenges they have experienced.

**Kin Pathways Parents Quotes:**

- "I learned so much about me and my attachment style and what I bring to this."
- "I have never learned about adult attachments and how that impacts my relationship with my grandson and his attachments."
- "I learned how this triggers me and it helps to understand this at a cognitive level."
- "This has been a big learning experience for me and I am taking so much away from this."
- "I am learning to be more attuned to him and our relationship is healing."
- "I also realize that I need to take a deep breath and unpack my own baggage."

Visit [www.adoption.on.ca](http://www.adoption.on.ca) for more information

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