

The ***Out of Home Care*** series

Attachment and loss in practice – working with children in care

All alternative care workers are aware of the importance of attachment. Yet misunderstandings about this key concept can lead to difficulties applying it in practice. This workshop demystifies attachment and debunks the myths that surround it. We examine the evidence about what attachment and loss really mean in the lives of children and young people in out of home care. Participants will consolidate their understanding of these key concepts and explore how to apply them in practice to achieve optimal long-term outcomes for children and young people.

Needs-led practice – supporting carers to make a difference

Working with carers to support children/young people and their families requires a multitude of skills and the knowledge to help carers respond effectively to children's complex needs. What key concepts must underpin efforts to make a difference for children in care? What core actions, on your part, are the crucial ones to help carers respond to the needs of children? This workshop looks beyond the basics to consider the most effective ways to support carers as perhaps the most important resource of the child protection system. It includes the similar-but-different demands upon relative carers and respite carers.

Good practice for residential care workers

Residential care workers in services for children and young people in care have a challenging job! They must have the knowledge and skills to work effectively with children and young people who are affected by multiple issues including loss and trauma. They must be able to work effectively with family members and other people significant to a child or young person, drawing on the evidence of 'what works'. It is critical that they can collaborate with other professionals outside the residential and contribute to planning and decision-making for the child or young person. This workshop supports and challenges residential care workers to examine how they can use their everyday activities to create therapeutic opportunities that make a difference for children and young people.

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