



THE
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
PEOPLE

Engaging parents and carers: creating a working alliance

An ethical engagement framework to support confidence and best practice.

This course will help participants develop skills in positive engagement of parents/carers from the outset. The course aims to provide participants with an engagement framework that complements all their existing knowledge and skills. It brings together knowledge of trauma, attachment, shame research, attunement, invitations to responsibility framework, parental ethics, and their role in ethical client engagement.

Participants will learn ways to recruit parents into an alliance with focus on the wellbeing of the child in their care and the existing expertise they hold in their parenting role, thereby gaining a vital ally in the potentially fraught parent/worker relationship.

Participants will acquire best practice skills and strategies, leading them to feel more confident in engaging families, meeting challenges and preventing burnout by focusing their energy more effectively, as well as give them an opportunity to reflect on their own clinical attitudes towards a client group that is often difficult to engage deeply.

With consistent and mindful use of these skills participants will be able to support sustainability of change and resilience within the family unit by enhancing the family's own capacity. The course is specifically built on the framework of parents as the wounded experts who, despite their childhood wounds, can connect with their own caring wisdom and grow as adults, becoming grounded in their parenting role and responsibility, consequently providing the most protective factor for the child's growth and development.

Multiple research directions (attachment, ethics, shame, trauma) will come together to equip participants with the crucial knowledge for successful engagement that protects the worker/client relationship.

Ultimately, the framework acts as a 'professional stance' navigating tool when working with parents/carers. Role plays will allow participants to experiment in deliberately adopting the framework while harnessing their existing skills to engage clients in ways that are mindful of trauma histories, power imbalances, boundaries, personal responsibility, and the individual's power to grow, heal, show resilience, and parent lovingly despite their history. Participants will be able to consider their most challenging client engagement experience and workshop an approach of engaging the client that feels authentic to them and realistic for their workplace. Participants will practice the use of the framework on the day, giving them the opportunity to troubleshoot or fine-tune their use of their skills as they align with the framework of engagement.

Learning objectives of this training:

1. Develop specific skills required to positively engage with families.
2. Feel more confident in delivering essential psychoeducation to parents/carers.
3. Learn ways to engage parents/carers in their own responsibility to create change.
4. Be able to set clear boundaries in your interaction with families.
5. Take away strategies that will support parents/carers to connect to their own personal wisdom, power, and responsibility.
6. Develop a personal approach based on clinical wisdom and best practice principles to effectively engage parents/carers.
7. Obtain an evidence-based framework of engagement that can hold all your existing skills and be easily translated to other contexts and client groups.



Maya Floyd is a Psychologist with over 12 years' experience in the community and welfare sector. She has worked with children, adolescents, adults, and families in the areas of youth homelessness prevention, out of home care services and adolescent and family therapy. Maya developed this presentation after training with Mary Jo McVeigh of Cara House in the area of ethical engagement of parents and carers of young people at risk, and has had the privilege of taking it to numerous services across Australia. Maya holds a BA in Psychology, Post Graduate studies in Psychology, a specialisation in Existential Therapeutic Practice, is an Educator at the Australian College of Applied Psychology (ACAP), is an accredited Trainer and Assessor. She is currently completing a Master degree in Counselling and Psychotherapy and maintaining a modest private practice of clinical work and supervision.

This training may qualify for Focussed Psychological Strategies (FPS) CPD. Please refer to the Dept. of Health <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/mental-ba-focus#cpd> for more information.

View our range of training topics at www.PDPseminars.com.au to choose from our in-house listings or have one of our calendar events conveniently delivered at your workplace.



ACA: Members can accrue 12 CPD points.

AASW: Members can accrue 6 CPD hours.



ACWA: Members can accrue 6 CPD hours.

PACFA: Members can accrue 6 CPD hours.

APS: Activities do not need to be endorsed by APS. Members can accrue 6 active hours.

Morning Session

Building a profile: the disengaged client
Exploring our professional stance: how do I see my client?
Barriers to engagement: the capacity-depleting triad
Relationally triggered defences (disengagement)
Working relationally (engagement)
Framework of ethical engagement

Afternoon Session

The three elements of the framework: attunement, mapping ethics, working with shame.
Skills of attunement
Skills of mapping ethics
Sills of working with emerging shame
Engagement strategies across the three elements
Building parental capacity through psychoeducation
I've used the framework and there has been no change; what now?
Evaluation and closing.

“Ethical engagement framework has it all: skills, strategies, personal and professional ethics, a sound theoretical and research base, in-built burn out prevention, and, most significantly, is a deeply compassionate and respectful stance towards another human being who is seeking change.”

Maya Floyd

How will you benefit from attending this training?

- Deepen their clinical practice by using the ethical engagement framework as a guide in their engagement of clients
- Place their existing skills within the ethical engagement framework that can be used with other client groups
- Gain new skills and greater confidence in own practice style for successful client engagement

Booking process:

1. Request a quotation.
2. Agree upon a delivery date.
3. Arrange the 50% booking deposit.
4. Finalise balance of booking fee one month prior to the training.

We include:

- Presenter travel and accommodation costs.
- Soft copy of resources and evaluation.
- Individual attendance certificates for all participants.

Contact our in-house program director 1300 887 622 or info@PDPseminars.com.au for information, quotation or to have a helpful chat about the needs of your team.

The presentation is appropriate for Psychologists, counsellors, case workers, youth workers, parent educators – all professionals working in the fields of family services, kinship care, OOHHC,

Feedback from Maya's recent presentations of this workshop:

“Excellent presenter and presentation.”

“Totally relevant and utterly engaging.”

“Trainer's professional expertise is apparent and wonderful to draw from.”

“I've gained confidence to focus on attunement and to scaffold parents through ethical discussion about parenting.”

“Very relevant tools and potential structure/compass for the work I do.”

“Most useful thing was using ethics in conversation to facilitate change.”

“All of it was useful!”