

# strengthening families

## I L L I N O I S

### DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

#### TRAINING SESSION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD AND CHILD WELFARE STAFF

##### *Half-day session*

Early childhood programs have many reasons for working with child welfare staff, whether as mandated reporters or because children in their centers are involved with the system. Although these collaborations can be challenging, they are crucial to keeping children safe and promoting their healthy development. SFI has developed effective strategies for staff from both environments to work together for the best interests of children and families. This training demystifies the child welfare system's policies, processes, and structure and provides information and direction for early childhood staff. It also helps early childhood center staff understand the expectations of child welfare staff and establish mutually beneficial practices and relationships.

##### PURPOSE

1. Begin to bridge the organizational cultures of early childhood and child welfare professionals.
2. Value and respect the expertise and knowledge that both professional disciplines bring to the relationship.
3. Construct a framework for developing collaborative relationships to support families.
4. Understand the impact that early childhood centers can have on the well-being of children in the child welfare system by being a place of stability for children and families.
5. Develop an appreciation for collaborating to build a team of professionals who keep children safe and families strong.

##### OBJECTIVES

At this training, participants will:

1. Explore the meaning of and assumptions about collaboration.

This and other sessions are provided by the Midwest Learning Center for Family Support, Family Focus, Inc., one of more than forty partners in Strengthening Families Illinois. For more information or to arrange training for your staff, please contact:

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## I L L I N O I S

### DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS TRAINING SESSION, cont.

2. Look at the benefits and barriers of a collaborative relationship.
3. Explore the collaborative relationship between child welfare and early childhood centers.
4. Learn why enrollment in quality early childhood education centers for 3- to 5-year-olds is critical for children in the child welfare system as a school-readiness strategy.
5. Identify ten great reasons for child welfare professionals to partner with early childhood professionals.

### TRAINING MODALITIES

- Large- and small-group discussion
- Reflective practice
- Brainstorming
- Case scenario

For more information, please contact the Midwest Learning Center for Family Support using the information at right.