



International Adoption Prospective Adoptive Parent Training Requirements

Adoption Center of Illinois at Family Resource Center (ACI) offers Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) training courses to promote a successful adoption. Training is required for all families to educate themselves on issues relevant to adoption. There is no additional cost to attend regular classes offered by our agency once PAPs have submitted their application and paid the Phase I fees. **PAPs are required to read [The Connected Child: Bring Hope and Healing to Your Adoptive Family](#), obtain [CPR certification](#),¹ complete their required training as outlined below.**

What do I need training?

Adoption and parenting come with many challenges (and joys!) so it is vital that PAPs have realistic expectations and tools to support their children. Regulations for training pursuant to the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 require a minimum 10 hours (12 for China) of training **before** a family can have any contact with the child. Families cannot travel to the child's country of origin to "view" or "select" a child until they complete the required training. This training must cover 8 mandatory topic areas as follows:

1. The intercountry adoption process, general characteristics and needs of children awaiting adoption and the in-country conditions that affect children in the country parents plan to adopt.
2. The effect of malnutrition, relevant environmental toxins, maternal substance abuse, and any other known genetic, health, emotional and developmental risk factors associated with the country.
3. Information about the impact of leaving familiar ties and surroundings as appropriate to the expected age of the child.
4. Data on institutionalized children and the impact of institutionalization on children, including the effect of the length of time in the institution and the type of care provided in-country.
5. Information on attachment disorders and other emotional problems that institutionalized or traumatized children, and children with a history of multiple caregivers, may experience before, during and after adoption.
6. Information on the laws and adoption processes of the expected country of origin, including foreseeable delays and impediments to finalization of an adoption.
7. Information on the long-term implications for a family that has become multicultural through Intercountry adoption.
8. An explanation of the reporting requirements associated with Hague adoptions, including post-placement or post-adoption reports required by the country of origin.

PAPs must also complete training to be as fully prepared as possible for the adoption of a particular child. This includes training on:

9. The child's history and cultural, racial, religious, ethnic, and linguistic background;
10. The known health risks in the specific region or country where the child resides; and
11. Any other medical, social, background, birth history, educational data, developmental history, or any other data known about the particular child.

¹ Please check with your local American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or EMS Safety Services for these trainings.

What are my training requirements?

In addition to reading [The Connected Child: Bring Hope and Healing to Your Adoptive Family](#) and obtaining CPR certification, **PAPs must complete training courses that address the specific needs of the child(ren) that PAPs are open to adopting. At least 2 hours of training** must address the specific needs of the child that PAPs are open to adopting. For example, PAPs open to adopting a child with complex medical needs, prenatal substance exposure, a history of trauma, an older child, and/or a child of a different race must receive training related to **each** of those topics. ACI staff will work with PAPs to identify their specific training requirements.

Please note that more training may be suggested or required at any time in order to better prepare PAPs for adoptive parenting. If PAPs' expectations change after the home study is finalized or after they have been matched with a particular child or children, they may be required to take additional trainings.

What methods of training are acceptable?

While we do not require that families attend ACI's classes, we strongly recommend they attend as many in-person trainings as possible. Trainings can take place in-person or online so long as PAPs provide certificates of completion. Please note that each PAP must be listed on certificates to provide each of them with credit. Online resources that PAPs have utilized include [AdoptionEd.org²](#), <https://heartofthematterededucation.com>, www.adoptionsupport.org, www.adoptionlearningpartners.org. *NOTE: It is not possible to complete all Hague training through classes at ACI so PAPs must take training classes through other resources.*

How long are our credits from training courses valid?

Credits are valid for 4 years.

Which ACI classes may count towards my required training courses?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Adoptee Panel: Adoptees Share their Experiences• Adoption in School• Attachment and Adoption• Communicating with your Child about Adoption• Empowered to Connect Conference*• Parenting Children who have Experienced Trauma	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parenting in SPACE Workshop*• Race and Adoption• Understanding Grief and Loss• Understanding the Effects of Prenatal Alcohol and Drug Exposure• Understanding Trauma: How Hard Experiences Can Affect Children, and Why it Matters for You
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As previously noted, ACI's regular classes are free for ACI families. However, class there may registration fees when ACI is hosting a special program (i.e. Parenting in SPACE Workshop, Empowered to Connect Conference).

Please remember that additional trainings may be required at any time based on PAPs' adoption expectations and/or a child's specific needs.

*If you have any questions relating to training,
you may contact Lindsay Weinberg at 773-334-2300.*

² ACI has partnered with Creating a Family to provide ACI families with access to unlimited free materials and training classes. ACI staff will provide you with the agency coupon code so you can utilize these resources.