



THE RESULTS ARE IN:

AN EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM

OVERVIEW

The National Training and Development Curriculum (NTDC) is a new, interactive classroom and online curriculum that provides parents who are fostering, adopting, or kinship caregiving with essential information, knowledge and tools about parenting children who have experienced trauma, grief or loss. Once a child is placed in a caregiver's home, the NTDC also helps to build skills by providing ongoing learning opportunities and resources for parents as the child in their care grows and enters new developmental stages. The NTDC is based on research and input from experts and individuals who have experience with fostering and adopting.

The NTDC was evaluated rigorously in seven pilot sites across the country. A total of 4,268 foster, adoptive, and kinship parents participated in NTDC trainings between September 2020-August 2022. Of these, 1,826 volunteered to participate in the evaluation. The NTDC is freely available to any state, county, tribal nation, territory, or private child welfare agency. For more information, see the NTDC website: www.ntdcportal.org.



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IMPACT

When comparing the results of parents who participated in NTDC training (Intervention Group) with parents who continued to participate in the pilot site's existing training (Comparison Group), the results clearly substantiate the impact of NTDC on parents and the children in their care.

NTDC caregivers had a better understanding of trauma and how trauma impacted their daily lives

NTDC caregivers had statistically significantly larger growth than comparison group caregivers in their Trauma-Informed Parenting Scale

NTDC caregivers were more receptive to the child's family connections

NTDC caregivers had larger growth than comparison group caregivers in their Receptivity to Birth Family Connections Scale

NTDC caregivers maintained their knowledge of child development beyond the completion of the training

Comparison group caregivers had statistically significantly larger loss than NTDC caregivers in their Foster Child Development scale

NTDC caregivers had greater confidence in parenting children with challenging behaviors

NTDC caregivers scored statistically significantly higher on the Challenging Children Applicant Subscale than the comparison group caregivers, and also had statistically significantly larger growth in their scores

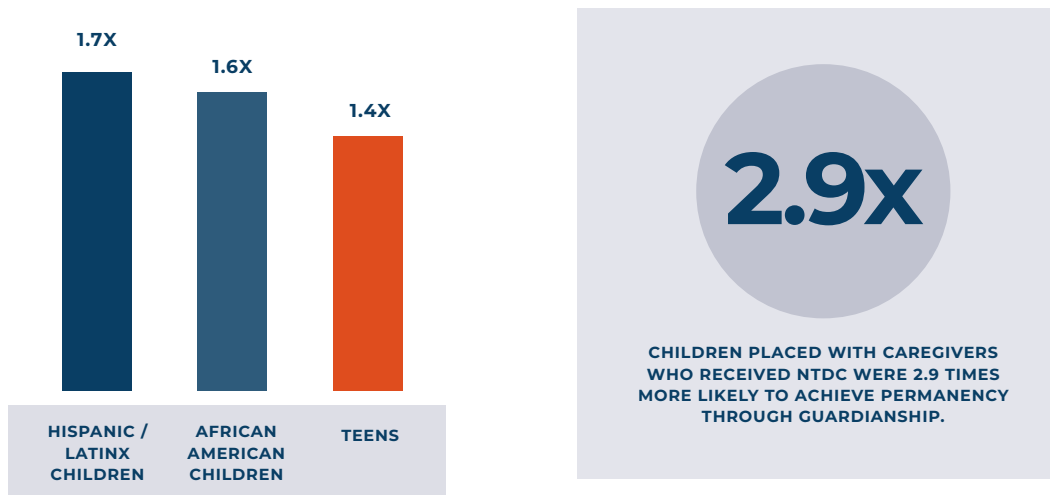
NTDC caregivers had greater confidence to act in their parent role

NTDC caregivers scored statistically significantly higher than comparison group caregivers on the Parenting Self-Agency Measure

NTDC caregivers felt their mental and physical health increased

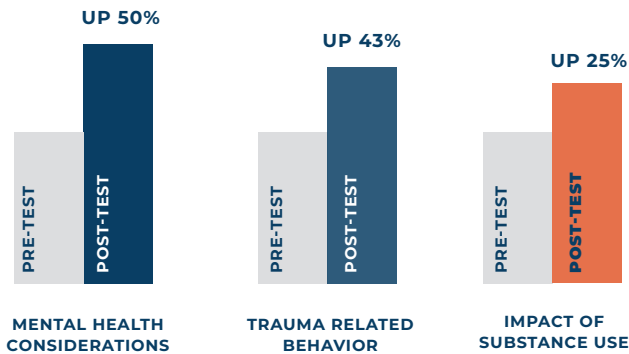
NTDC caregiver self-rated mental and physical health increased, while it decreased for comparison group caregivers.

NTDC parents were more likely to foster:



RESULTS FROM CLASSROOM-BASED TRAINING

NTDC caregivers had statistically significant growth in their NTDC pre-posttest knowledge assessment scores.



» **Participant competency gains are high.** Participant post-tests showed statistically significant improvement in 18 of the 18 themes. The greatest score improvement was in the 'Mental Health Considerations' theme (50% improvement from pre- to post-test).

» **Participants are satisfied with the content being delivered.** Participants rated their satisfaction using a 6-point scale, with higher scores indicating greater satisfaction.



» **Participants most appreciated the videos, stories shared by individuals with experience** fostering and adopting, interaction with other parents, examples and case studies, group activities, and handouts.

"The best thing about NTDC is that it offers current, research-based information for prospective foster, adoptive and kin caregivers."

NTDC FACILITATOR

» **Participants felt that skills being taught were important.** They gave the content an average importance rating of 9.6 out of 10. The 'Separation, Grief and Loss' skill of recognizing the signs of grief and loss underlying children's behavior was rated most important



» **Participants were reasonably confident, with confidence ratings of 8.9 out of 10.** Participants were most confident in their ability to implement the skills in the 'Kinship Parenting' theme.



» **Participants were very likely to use skills gained.** They gave an average likelihood rating of 9.3 out of 10. Participants were most confident they would use the skills learned in 'Kinship Parenting.'



RESULTS FROM RIGHT-TIME TRAINING

Right-Time online trainings were well received.

- » **Average perceived competency increased on all questions.** Statistically significant competency changes were observed from pre- to post-test, increasing from 8.3 to 9.0 out of 10.



- » **Participants improved their accuracy in answering questions from the pre to the post-tests.** Participants showed statistically significant improvement from pre- to post-test, from 78% to 82% in overall accuracy. The theme with the greatest improvement was 'Sexual Development and Identity.'



- » **Satisfaction was high.** Participants agreed trainings were relevant to their needs, applicable to real life, and they would recommend it to other parents.

FEEDBACK ON REMOTE TRAINING

Almost all of the participants included in this evaluation took the NTDC on a remote platform.

- » **Participants' experiences with the online setting are positive.** Participants report with an average comfort rating of 5.6 on a 6-point scale.



- » **Participants did not feel that the virtual implementation of the NTDC impeded their learning.** Overall scores were 2.2 on a 6-point scale. A rating of 1 would indicate zero impact on their learning.

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The different levels of information we are receiving is great. I am learning so much and just having these conversations have opened my eyes to a lot of things about fostering.

NTDC PARTICIPANT



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