



# FAMILY CONNECTS

## Fellowship Program for Practitioners

### DESCRIPTION

This innovative post professional fellowship is open to licensed occupational therapists, mental health clinicians, and social workers as an opportunity to develop competencies and skills to implement the Family Connects Model. The program is offered over the course of 2 years (100 hours). The Family Connects Model is an interprofessional approach utilizing a trauma informed, attachment focused, and sensory rich model of care specifically designed for children and families. Fellows will be part of a cohort participating in varied learning opportunities including virtual, in-person experiential, and self-paced. At the end of this fellowship, you will be equipped to work with families with a holistic lens and be empowered to implement this collaborative model into your current practice.

### INCLUDES

#### Training and Education

- Understanding the impact of trauma on early relationships and brain development.
- Applying certain aspects of relationship-based theories including Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) and Theraplay® in clinical practice.
- Utilizing sensory processing principles and strategies effectively within group settings.
- Mastering the components of the Family Connects Model for practical implementation.
- Collaborating across professions to holistically support children and families.
- Addressing underlying needs behind behaviors in relational contexts

#### Experiential and Practical Learning

- Participating in a 10-week Family Connects session as a volunteer "buddy" in the children's group.
- Intensive Learning and Retreat Weekend

#### Mentorship and Implementation

- Personalized mentorship from trainers
- Guidance in implementing the Family Connects model into your own practice

### TIME COMMITMENT

- Training and equipping for participation in Family Connects Model 10-week session - Zoom and in-person (8 hours)
- Participation in a 10-Week session of the Family Connects Model (3 hours/week for 10 weeks - 30 hours)
- Education and training in relationship-based theories and frameworks and sensory integrative processing principles (lectures, readings, instructional videos - 24 hours)
- Intensive Learning and Retreat Weekend (16 hours)
- Weekly lectures and cohort connections during the 10 week session (10 hours)
- Personalized mentorship (12 hours)



### QUESTIONS AND APPLICATION

**Email your resume to:**

**[fellowship@centerforfamilyconnection.org](mailto:fellowship@centerforfamilyconnection.org)**

**Currently Accepting Applications**

**Application Deadline for Fall Cohort:**

**July 14th, 2025**



### Additional Contact Information

**30 Tyler Prentice Rd.**

**Worcester, MA 01605**

**Phone: 774.234.7834**



**Center for Family  
CONNECTION**

Find us on:



**[www.centerforfamilyconnection.org](http://www.centerforfamilyconnection.org)**

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# FAQs



## Q. What are the dates I will need to commit to?

### A. Fall Cohort Commitments

- Apply by July 14, 2025
- Fall Fellowship starts September 8, 2025 - In person - 6:30-8:30pm
- Family Connects Volunteer Training:
  - September 9, 2025 - Zoom - 7:00-9:00 pm
  - September 16, 2025 - Zoom - 7:00-9:00 pm
  - September 20, 2025- In person - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Family Connects 10 Week Session - Starting September 30/October 1 and running Tuesdays and Wednesdays through December 9/10. (We will break for Thanksgiving week.) Fellows will choose to participate in either the Tuesday or Wednesday group sessions. Each session is from 6:00-9:00pm in person.

### Combined Cohort Commitments

- Weekend intensive retreat - March 13th-15th, 2026 at Toah Nipi in Rindge, NH.

## Q. What does participation in the 10-week Family Connects Session as a volunteer buddy entail?

**A.** You will gain practical experience and hands on mentorship as you serve as a "buddy" in a Family Connects children's group. As a buddy, you will be paired 1 on 1 with a child enrolled in that Family Connects session and apply the trauma-informed, attachment focused, and sensory-rich principles and strategies you are learning. The Fall groups will run on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings for 10 weeks (you will be a buddy on one of those evenings). As a buddy, you will receive equipping prior to the session start date (see Family Connects Volunteer Training dates above), as well as participate in weekly collaborative processing sessions with the team following each group.

## Q. How do I know if I am a good fit for this Fellowship?

**A.** Fellows should have a degree in mental health (Master's level) and/or occupational therapy. A license is preferred for mental health practitioners. OTs should be registered and licensed in your state of practice. Fellows should be teachable, collaborative, and playful. Additional training in attachment, trauma-informed care, and sensory processing is preferred but not required.

## Q. I have applied, whats next?

**A.** Once we receive your resume, one of our Fellowship staff will be in touch to schedule an interview with you and discuss next steps.

## Q. What will I get to show I've completed this fellowship?

**A.** Contact hours will be available for all practitioners and all will receive a Fellowship Completion Certificate.

## Q. How much will the fellowship cost?

**A.** \$1,250  
Scholarships and payment plans are available.

## Q. What are the components of the Family Connects Model?

**A.** The foundation of the Family Connects Model is the collaboration of compassionate mental health care providers, occupational therapists, and volunteers dedicated to improving the quality of families' lives through the power of connection. These practitioners support families with the components of the model including modalities of group therapy, family therapy and caregiver consultations each week over the course of 10 weeks.

