



Loving Kids *with* Challenging Behaviors

Trauma-informed training for churches

56% of children in Arkansas have experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE).

This is the highest in the nation.

This means...

if your church is serving children in any capacity, you are likely to encounter children who have experienced significant childhood trauma.

Early trauma can affect a child's brain, body, and development in many ways, often leading to adverse behaviors that can look like "acting out" or "throwing a tantrum." However, these behaviors point to a deep need to feel safe and secure. These children often require extra care, curiosity and support to thrive in a classroom or group setting.

The CALL is here to provide the clarity and confidence your church needs to serve children from hard places. By creating a safe, welcoming, supportive environment for children who have experienced trauma, you are serving some of the most vulnerable families in our communities and showing them the love of Jesus and the compassion of His people.

learn more:





Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of this training?

This training is designed to equip church members to better serve children and families in your congregation and in your community, particularly those who may have experienced significant trauma in their past. Our primary goal is to help these children feel safe, secure, and loved and to ensure that we respond to them with curiosity and compassion.

This training will provide you with an understanding of:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), including abuse, neglect, and household challenges, and how these can impact a child's development.
- How trauma can affect a child's behavior.
- Trauma-sensitive strategies to help these children thrive, even when facing challenging behaviors.
- The importance of fostering curiosity, compassion, and connection in your interactions with children.

How will this training help our church?

This training will equip you with practical strategies to respond to children with compassion and understanding.

You will learn how to:

- Recognize when a child is feeling unsafe and experiencing dysregulation.
- Implement strategies to create a sense of "felt safety."
- Prioritize connection over correction.
- Be attuned to children's sensory needs .
- Help children regulate their emotions through techniques like deep breathing and grounding.
- Create a more welcoming and inclusive environment for children with challenging behaviors and their families.

We already have safety policies for our children's ministry. Is this different?

While existing safety policies are crucial for physical safety and security, this training focuses on emotional and relational safety for children who have experienced trauma. It complements your existing policies by providing a deeper understanding of how past experiences can affect behavior and how to respond in a trauma-sensitive way.

What are the training logistics?

This training is facilitated at your church by a certified representative of The CALL. We will work with your church to set a date and time that works best for your church members. The training takes approximately 30 minutes to facilitate, but we recommend allotting one hour to accommodate questions and discussion. The host church will need to provide a screen or tv with an HDMI connection for the presentation (or coordinate alternative presentation software ahead of time).