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**FROM CRISIS TO  
SUPPORT: TOOLS &  
RESOURCES FOR  
FAMILIES**

# EMERGENCY BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION: What to Do When a Child is in Crisis

*written by Staci Ellerby, PARC Support Staff*

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a wonderful training opportunity called "[What to Do When a Child is in Crisis](#)," by an adoptive parent, Barb Clark (FASD/Behavior Consultant). Barb provides the trauma-informed framework for understanding how to respond to a crisis presented by an adoptive or foster child. This training emphasizes that behavior is a form of communication and that the crisis may be part of a trauma-related change that is happening in the brain development. This training explains how trauma can impact the brain. When children are in crisis, their survival skills kick in, resulting in behaviors that are a result of dysregulation.

Barb encourages caregivers to use trauma-response strategies instead of consequences, since it can escalate the behavior. Understanding the development of the brain is essential as many children have traumatic histories. Barb discusses several preventative strategies, which include increased supervision of the child and proactive safety planning.

One helpful framework shared in the training is B.E.A.R.S.:

- Brain first – Focus on calming the child’s nervous system before addressing behavior
- Emotional age – Respond to the child based on their developmental, not chronological, age
- Anxiety origin – Consider what may be driving the child’s stress or fear
- Relationship – Prioritize connection and trust
- Sensory intervention – Use calming sensory strategies when helpful

During a crisis, simple and supportive responses are often most effective. Using a calm tone, limiting words, and reducing stimulation in the environment can help prevent further escalation. It’s also important to avoid lecturing, threatening, or trying to reason in the moment, as these approaches can increase distress.

If a child leaves or attempts to leave during a moment of overwhelm (sometimes called elopement), this is often a coping response to an overwhelming situation rather than an attention seeking behavior. When elopement occurs, the caregivers should focus on safety, reduce any stimulation happening in that moment and establish a safe space, as well as trusted contacts that may be able to help in the moment.

To learn more about this training and to view the [online webinar](#), please view the National Counsel for Adoption. This is a 90-minute course with a certificate of completion once completed. The cost for caregivers is \$25.00.

# Did You Know...

## Camp

The medical subsidy program may cover up to \$500 for day camp or \$800 for overnight camp per calendar year. A letter from the adoptive parent(s)/guardian(s) indicating how the child will benefit from the camp, based on the certified condition is required. Overnight and day camps must be licensed in the state where they are located. Adoption medical subsidy will not cover the costs of transportation to or from the camp. Prior authorization through the AGAO is not required. Note: To ensure payment, adoptive parent(s)/guardian(s) may request prior authorization.

## Tutoring

Limited payment for tutoring may be provided for the following children:

- Ages seven and older, for the purpose of raising a failing grade (C or below) in a general education class or required elective for high school students or support for a child who has below average standardized test scores.
- Children who are receiving educational services as part of their special education IEP or 504 plans, who require specific additional help beyond parental assistance.

The tutoring request must include one of the following:

- Most recent report card or progress report.
- Most recent standardized test scores.
- IEP Plan.
- 504 Plan.

Additionally, the tutoring request must:

- Occur outside of regular school hours.
- Include documentation that free tutoring is not offered by the school.
- Documentation that verifies the tutor is qualified to tutor the child in the subject area(s) (examples: honors student in that particular subject, high school graduate, college student, certified teacher) must be submitted with the tutoring request to the AGAO prior to commencement of tutoring services.



## Tutoring Approvals

- Tutoring payment requires prior authorization by the AGAO.
- Tutoring must not exceed \$150 per week.
- Prior authorization for tutoring may cover a maximum of 12 months.
- Request for additional tutoring requires a new prior authorization from the AGAO.
- Tutoring payments will be made directly to the tutor. The tutor must register as a vendor with the State of Michigan.

## Academic Credit Recovery/Summer School

Academic credit recovery/summer school courses may be reimbursed for high school students in public school districts that do not reimburse parents for completion of the courses. The courses must meet high school graduation requirements and the child must have a medical subsidy condition certified by the AGAO related to academic performance. Documentation from the school verifying the course is required for high school graduation and the cost of the course is required for prior authorization by the AGAO. Documentation verifying regular attendance and completion of the course is required for reimbursement of the course.



Build connections and get support from others who truly understand!

## What are people saying about PARC?

"These people are my tribe. This support group has helped me get through so many things."

"My PARC worker helped to keep me from jumping off the ledge many times. I never felt judged, only supported."

"My experience was wonderful, our worker was a huge help to us. We truly appreciate all of the support!"

"Our PARC worker has been a true blessing to our family. Their kindred spirit helped me through a difficult time."

For a complete list of events and resources, visit [www.parc-judson.org/calendar](http://www.parc-judson.org/calendar)

**Region 5 Phone**  
734-794-2988

**Region 6 Phone**  
810-732-8510

**Counties Served:**  
Barry, Branch, Calhoun,  
Eaton, Hillsdale,  
Ingham, Jackson,  
Kalamazoo, Lenawee,  
Livingston, Monroe,  
St. Joseph, Washtenaw

**Counties Served:**  
Genesee, Huron,  
Lapeer, Sanilac, St.  
Clair, Tuscola

### Mailing Address

3840 Packard Rd. Suite 170  
Ann Arbor, MI



Information within this newsletter is provided by Post Adoption Resource Centers and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

# MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUPS

## BETTER TOGETHER

First Monday of every month  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

To register, contact:  
[parc\\_5@judsoncenter.org](mailto:parc_5@judsoncenter.org)  
or 734-794-2988

## ADOPTIVE FAMILY CONNECTIONS: BETTER TOGETHER

Second Monday of every month  
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

*in-person in Ann Arbor*

To register, contact:  
[parc\\_5@judsoncenter.org](mailto:parc_5@judsoncenter.org)  
or 734-794-2988

## PARENTING TEENS

Third Wednesday of every month  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

*participants are welcome to leave early, if needed*

To register, contact:  
[parc\\_5@judsoncenter.org](mailto:parc_5@judsoncenter.org)  
or 734-794-2988

## ADOPTIVE FAMILY CONNECTIONS

First Thursday of every month  
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

To register, contact:  
[Somervickery@judsoncenter.org](mailto:Somervickery@judsoncenter.org)  
or (810) 577-4067