

Working with parents who experienced adverse childhood experiences

Background: Thy's story (the focus of the previous webinar, *The effects of adverse experience on children*)

Thy is a six-year-old girl who lives with her foster family. In the first years of her life Thy lived with her birth parents who had many parties. Often there were many strangers, and drugs and alcohol in the house. Thy was regularly left in unsafe situations and the extent of her experiences is not fully known.

Thy's foster parents say that she is an affectionate child who is generous and funny, but that at times they worry that she is openly affectionate to strangers.

Thy can also become disengaged or aggressive towards her foster parents and siblings. At these times she tells her foster parents that she hates them and can't wait to be reunited with her birth family.

Thy's foster family worry about their capacity to keep her safe and they wonder if she would be better off in another placement.

Follow [this link](#) to watch a short one minute video of Thy's story.

Issue with the link? Copy and paste the following into your internet browser:
<https://vimeo.com/331149915/48baa8ff73>

The focus of this webinar is Thy's parents – Janet and Justin, when Thy was three and still in their care.

Thy's mum is Janet. Janet had Thy when she was 17-years old. She is now 20 with a mild intellectual disability and an addiction to methamphetamines.

Janet spent most of her childhood in out-of-home care and none of her foster placements seemed to work.

Janet desperately wanted a child so that she would have somebody to love.

When Janet is not using, she can sometimes feel really close to Thy. But when she starts using, days can go by without her noticing.

Justin is Thy's 26-year-old father. While he likes to have a good time, he doesn't always use.

Justin grew up with his birth mother but left when he was 14 because his step-father abused him.

Justin likes having Thy around but he doesn't have the energy to put up with her constant crying.

He wishes that Janet would look after her better, but he wouldn't know the first thing about being a fulltime dad. He never had one of his own and his Mum's boyfriends only ever hurt him.