

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

DELIVERED BY  
CanChild & Kids Brain Health Network

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
McMaster University Continuing Education



AN ONLINE 10-WEEK CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION



CONTINUING  
EDUCATION

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION PROGRAM

The Family Engagement in Research Certificate of Completion Program is a 10-week course delivered by CanChild and Kids Brain Health Network in partnership with McMaster University Continuing Education. The course is delivered in an online format, using McMaster University's Learning Management Platform.

Course work will involve four virtual classes, independent review of written materials/case studies, and weekly online group discussions and exercises. From its inception, the course has been co-developed in partnership with parents and researchers and is co-delivered by both experienced parents and researchers.

This course is designed for researchers (graduate students, research staff, investigators) and family members (parents, siblings, grandparents) who have an interest in child health research and family-researcher partnerships.

## APPLICATION

To apply, please fill out the application form [here](#).



## COURSE GOALS

### CREATE A COHORT OF FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE:

- Invested in contributing to and ready to engage in child health research.
- Knowledgeable about the research process and can make informed decisions with regards to partnering on a research project.
- Capable and confident to engage with researchers at various levels of the research process and recognize the impact they can have on the research community.

### CREATE A COHORT OF RESEARCHERS WHO ARE:

- Invested in conducting and knowledgeable about family engagement research.
- Capable and confident in engaging with family partners in all stages of the research process.

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is unique in that it brings together researchers and families in a fully integrated online course. Learners will gain a more in-depth understanding of family engagement in research (including why it is important, how to engage families throughout the research process, barriers/facilitators and ethics surrounding engagement, and tools and resources to support and evaluate engagement activities). By the end of the course, learners will have increased their knowledge and confidence in family engagement in research and will be ready to apply what they have learned and partner on family-centred research projects.

## COURSE COMPLETION

By completing the course, you will earn a CanChild / Kids Brain Health Network/ McMaster University Certificate of Completion.



## COURSE FEES & FUNDING

- Course fees: \$500.00 CAD
- Full scholarships are available to Canadian and international applicants. Visit the [course website](#) for more information or email [fer@mcmaster.ca](mailto:fer@mcmaster.ca)



## COURSE DATES

**Fall 2022 Cohort:**  
September 19 – November 27

**Winter 2023 Cohort:**  
January 16 – March 26



# COURSE COMPLETION

Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Define and describe the benefits of family engagement in research
- Identify family/research partners and understand how to engage families throughout each step of the research process
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities of researchers and families on integrated teams
- Understand the ethics surrounding family engagement in research as well as the rights and responsibilities of research 'participants' versus a research 'partners'
- Recognize the barriers and facilitators to family engagement and identify strategies to support family engagement in research (at the family, researcher, and system levels).
- Understand and utilize tools and resources available for the implementation and evaluation of family engagement activities
- Communicate ideas related to family engagement verbally and in writing

# COURSE SCHEDULE

## Week 1

- Family Engagement in Research: What do we really mean?

## Week 2

- Family Engagement in Research: Why is it important?

## Week 3

- Building an integrated research team: How can we find each other?

## Week 4

- Building an integrated research team: How can we work together?

## Week 5

- Roles and responsibilities of families and researchers

## Week 6

- Ethics of family engagement in research

## Week 7

- Barriers and facilitators to family engagement

## Week 8

- Family engagement tools & resources

## Week 9

- Evaluation of family engagement activities

## Week 10

- Next Steps: Building a community for family-researcher partnerships

# GROUP PROJECT

As part of the course, researchers and family members are partnered together and required to create a knowledge translation tool on family engagement in research. To view past student projects, click [here](#).



## GRADUATE TESTIMONIALS



“I highly recommend this course! With this course I was able to learn a lot about the research phases and how I could be engaged in research as a caregiver. The instructors and participants were fully engaged, the discussions were always respectful and the readings were right on target. An enlightening experience about Family Engagement in Research!”

– Parent

“I had zero experience regarding family engagement and research before taking this course, so it was very helpful for me to take this course. It really helped elevate my level of appreciation for family engagement in research. For anyone who is interested in family engagement in research I would definitely recommend it. It was really well designed.”

– Researcher



## HISTORY OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION COURSE

The Family Engagement in Research Certificate of Completion was developed by Andrea Cross, Connie Putterman, Donna Thomson, Dayle McCauley, Patty Solomon, and Jan Willem Gorter at CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research at McMaster University. Course development was funded by Kids Brain Health Network.



For more information, please visit our course [website](https://www.mcmaster.ca/fer) or email us at [\*\*FER@mcmaster.ca\*\*](mailto:FER@mcmaster.ca).

**Subscribe to our newsletter**

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