

About this Course

The Essential Foundation in Collaborative Problem Solving course covers all aspects of the Collaborative Problem Solving approach. Through lectures, role-play, video examples, case studies, and breakout groups, participants learn how to identify what's really causing unmet expectations and challenging behavior and how to address those causes using a relational, replicable, and evidence-based process.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, learners will be able to:

- Describe why a new approach is needed for working with individuals with Undesired Behaviors.
- Explain that a person's behavior is influenced by their Thinking Skills rather than their motivation to behave well.
- Understand that implicit bias may impact judgment about a person's behavior.
- Differentiate between Problems to Be Solved and Undesired Behaviors when doing a Collaborative Problem Solving Assessment.
- Identify how responses to situations are consistent with Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C.
- Use Collaborative Problem Solving to build skills and address problems, not just Undesired Behaviors.
- Solve problems collaboratively with others.

Dates, Times, and Location

- October 6, 7, and 8, 2026 from 9am to 2:15pm Pacific Time.
- See the detailed agenda at the end of this document for more information.
- This 12-hour live, interactive training will occur online over Zoom.

Meet Your Instructors

Margaret Johnson has been a Certified Trainer and Consultant at Think: Kids for 10 years and is currently the Head of Belonging in Action Initiative. Margaret also serves as the Youth Program Director at Gala Pride & Diversity Center in San Luis Obispo, CA. Margaret holds a B.A. from San Francisco State University and an MSW from the University of Southern California. With over 20 years of experience, Margaret Johnson has supported youth and families involved in the child welfare system through direct care, staff supervision, and implementation of the CPS model.

Dr. Erin Hill, Ph.D. has been a Certified Trainer and Consultant at Think: Kids for eight years. Dr. Hill holds a B.A. in Psychology from Carleton College, an M.A. in Child Development from Tufts University, and a Ph.D. In Clinical Psychology from Suffolk University. Dr. Hill has worked with youth and families in various settings, including inpatient, outpatient, residential treatment, therapeutic schools, and summer

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camps. Dr. Hill completed her internship training at Astor Services for Children and Families, in Rhinebeck, NY. She also completed postdoctoral fellowship training at the University of Minnesota.

Fees

This training is being offered free of charge by Oregon Health Authority.

How to Register

Register for the training at the following link:
https://mgb-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/8NLoamUxQVO-gxez5jJl7g

Who Should Attend?

This beginner-level course is designed for social workers, educators, residential program staff, and mental health clinicians. Please contact Brian Pitkin, brian.m.pitkin@oha.oregon.gov or ThinkKidsInfo@MGB.org if you are unsure if this course is for you.

Earn CE/PDP Credits

To earn CE, PDP, or Certificates of Attendance, attendees must attend each session in full, complete a course evaluation, and complete an attestation of attendance. Partial credits will not be given in cases of missed hours, incomplete evaluations, or attestations. Certificates of completion will be emailed to attendees who meet these requirements within 30 days. If you do not receive your certificate or if you have any questions, please contact us at ThinkKidsInfo@MGB.org.

- **Social Workers:** Think:Kids at Massachusetts General Hospital, provider #1960 is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. ACE provider approval period: 8/28/2025 - 8/28/2028. Social workers completing this course receive 12 General continuing education credits.
- **Mental Health Counselors:** Think:Kids at Massachusetts General Hospital has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No.7844. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Think:Kids at Massachusetts General Hospital is solely responsible for all aspects of the program. Continuing Education Credit Available: 12 NBCC credit hours
- **Other:** A certificate of attendance will be provided for 12 units, which can be submitted to the corresponding professional organization for consideration.

Policies & Requirements

- **Cancellation and Refund Policy >>**
- **Grievances and Accommodations Policy >>**
- **Confidentiality of Participant Information Policy >>**
- **Attendance and Earning CE/PDP Policy >>**
- **System Requirements:** Users must join the training on their own devices, have access to a strong internet signal, use a web camera and microphone, and have downloaded Zoom to their devices. **Review the Zoom system requirements on their website >>**

Contact Us

Please contact us at ThinkKidsInfo@MGH.Harvard.edu or +1-617-643-6030 with any questions or concerns. 125 Nashua Street 7th Floor, Suite 7100, Boston, MA 02114. www.ThinkKids.org

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Agenda

Day	Hour	Time	Content/Topic	Presenter	Teaching Methods/Learner Engagement Strategies
Day 1					
October 6, 2026	1	9:00am-10:00 am PT	• Introductions • Housekeeping • CPS Mindset • CPS Philosophy • Thinking Skills	Margaret Johnson	Interactive lecture, question-and-answer, discussion, quick writing assignments, self-assessment, video examples
October 6, 2026		10:00am-10:15am PT	• Break		
October 6, 2026	1	10:15am–11:15am PT	• Thinking Skills • Dead End Explanations • Bias	Erin Jones	Interactive lecture, video examples, question-and-answer, small group discussion, skills self-reflection assignment, large group discussion
October 6, 2026		11:15am–11:45am PT	• Meal Break		
October 6, 2026	1	11:45am–12:45pm PT	• How CPS is different • Internal Motivation • CPS Assessing • Behaviors	Margaret Johnson	Interactive lecture, hands-on activities, small group work, large group discussion, question-and-answer
October 6, 2026		12:45pm–1:00pm PT	• Break		
October 6, 2026	1	1:00pm–2:00pm PT	• CPS Assessing • Problems to be Solved	Erin Jones	Interactive lecture, hands-on activities, small group work, large group discussion, question-and-answer
October 6, 2026		2:00pm–2:15pm PT	• Optional Q&A with Instructor		

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Day	Hour	Time	Content/Topic	Presenter	Teaching Methods/Learner Engagement Strategies
Day 2					
October 7, 2026	1	9:00am-10:00 am PT	• CPS Assessing • Problems to be Solved • The role of expectations • Thinking Skills	Margaret Johnson	Interactive lecture, question-and-answer, small group activity, large group discussion
October 7, 2026		10:00am-10:15am PT	• Break		
October 7, 2026	1	10:15am–11:15am PT	• CPS Assessing • Thinking Skills • CPS Planning • Plan A	Erin Jones	Interactive lecture, question-and-answer, hands-on activities, large group work, small group work, large group discussion
October 7, 2026		11:15am–11:45am PT	• Meal Break		
October 7, 2026	1	11:45am–12:45pm PT	• CPS Planning • Plan C • Plan B	Margaret Johnson	Interactive lecture, hands-on activities, large group work, small group work, large group discussion, video example
October 7, 2026		12:45pm–1:00pm PT	• Break		
October 7, 2026	1	1:00pm–2:00pm PT	• CPS Planning • CPS Intervention • Plan B • Empathize Ingredient	Erin Jones	Interactive lecture, hands-on activities, large group work, small group work, large group discussion
October 7, 2026		2:00pm–2:15pm PT	• Optional Q&A with Instructor		

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Day	Hour	Time	Content/Topic	Presenter	Teaching Methods/Learner Engagement Strategies
Day 3					
October 8, 2026	1	9:00am-10:00 am PT	• Plan B • Empathize Ingredient • Share Ingredient	Margaret Johnson	Interactive lecture, hands-on activities, large group work, small group work, large group discussion, video examples
October 8, 2026		10:00am-10:15am PT	• Break		
October 8, 2026	1	10:15am–11:15am PT	• Plan B • Share Ingredient • Collaborate Ingredient	Erin Jones	Hands-on-activities, small group work, large group discussion
October 8, 2026		11:15am–11:45am PT	• Meal Break		
October 8, 2026	1	11:45am–12:45pm PT	• Solving Problems Collaboratively • Plan B Practice	Margaret Johnson	Hands-on-activities, small group work, large group discussion
October 8, 2026		12:45pm–1:00pm PT	• Break		
October 8, 2026	1	1:00pm–2:00pm PT	• Timings of Collaborative Problem Solving • Group CPS • Moving forward with CPS	Erin Jones	Interactive lecture, self-reflection, small group discussion, large group discussion
October 8, 2026		2:00pm–2:15pm PT	• Course Evaluation		

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