The OFI Monthly

✦November 2026✦

Connection creates safety. Safety makes room for regulation. And regulation opens the door to growth.

Dear Partners,

This month, we are focusing on the power of connection and the important role relationships play in helping children and families thrive. In child welfare, the work we do is rooted in relationships—creating spaces where children feel safe, caregivers feel supported, and families have opportunities to grow and heal.

Regulation is the foundation of healthy relationships because feeling safe and supported makes it easier to trust, communicate, learn, and connect with others. When we lead with connection rather than correction, we create opportunities to strengthen relationships—even during challenging moments. Sometimes, the most meaningful thing we can offer a child is a steady presence, a listening ear, or the reassurance that they do not have to face difficult moments alone.

November also brings two important opportunities to recognize the individuals and families who make this work possible: **National Adoption Month** and **National Family Caregivers Month**. We celebrate the families who open their hearts and homes to children, honor the caregivers who provide stability and support every day, and recognize the professionals who walk alongside them throughout their journeys. These relationships require patience, compassion, and ongoing support, and each plays a meaningful role in helping children experience belonging, safety, and hope.

Mindy Kiser & Team



Learning with OFI



TFTC Thursdays are BACK!

Join us for our Quarter 4 series on Trauma Informed Consequences presented during TFTC Thursdays from 2:00-4:00pm ET.

Agency Master Trainers, Coaches, and Caregivers are all welcome to join the conversation for free, as we talk about tangible corrective interventions that maintain green balls as the priority for our youth's invisible suitcase.

Click to Register:

December 10, 2026: Green Ball Behavior Management

CONGRATULATIONS to our newly certified Together Facing The Challenge Partners!

Assuring Love- TX
Homes in Harmony- TX
National Youth Advocate Program- TX
LA County DCFS ISFC Public Service Model- CA
Goodwill Homes Community Services- TN

Build Connection and Co-Regulation This Fall



Cook or Bake Together

Make pumpkin muffins, apple crisp, or another seasonal favorite. Shared activities create opportunities for teamwork, conversation, laughter, and positive memories. Focus on enjoying the time together rather than getting everything perfect.

Create a Cozy Calm-Down Space

Set up a comfortable corner with blankets, pillows, books, or sensory items. Visit the space together when emotions begin to rise. This helps children learn that calming down is a supported process, not something they have to do alone.

Make a Gratitude or Appreciation Tree

Write kind words, happy memories, or things you appreciate about one another on paper leaves. Let everyone choose whether to participate and what to share. This can help build a sense of belonging without requiring children to discuss feelings they aren't ready to share.

Make Space for Every Feeling

Thanksgiving can bring up complicated emotions. Let children know they can feel happy, sad, worried, angry, or unsure. Try saying, “It's okay to have lots of different feelings. I'm here with you.” Connection grows when children feel accepted rather than pressured to feel grateful or happy.

Prioritize Reconnection After Hard Moments

When a child becomes overwhelmed, focus first on safety and helping them regulate. Once everyone is calmer, reconnect through a gentle conversation, shared activity, or reassuring words. Remind them that a difficult moment does not change your relationship.



TFTC Mobile App

For more than 30 years, Together Facing The Challenge has helped transform caregiving through evidence-based practices. Now, the TFTC App brings those same trusted tools and resources directly to your mobile device, making support available whenever and wherever you need it.

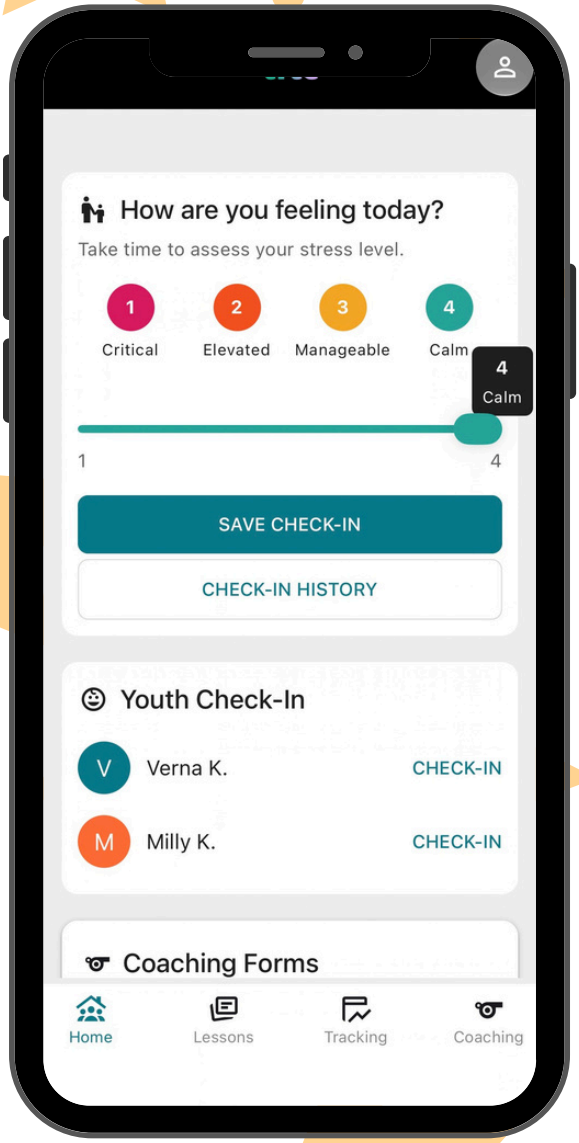
How the TFTC app helps you do your job more efficiently and effectively:

Strengthens connections with caregivers

Convenient access to resources for coaches and caregivers

Better communication with caregivers

Track behaviors and progress more efficiently



Our app has a new look.

It's even more user-friendly, with new helpful features.

It's a great time to get started with the app.