An Adoption Competent Child Serving Professional...

**Values** the role of parents as healing agents for their children, using practices that mitigate harm from trauma, prevent re-traumatization, recognize and preserve connections, promote healing, foster healthy identity, and build strengths and resilience.

**Understands** the nature of adoption as a form of family formation; the common developmental challenges in adoption or guardianship; the mental health issues that are associated with early adverse experiences; the importance of maintaining connection with siblings, kin, community and culture.

**Applies** trauma-informed, attachment-based casework or clinical skills and effectively utilizes skills to help children understand their past experiences, facilitate healing from loss, and build new, healthy family relationships.

**Chooses** culturally appropriate practices that promote healthy identity formation and addresses issues of race, culture, and diversity in adoptive and guardianship families; providing full disclosure, preparation, planning and support for families to provide the healing environment for their children; and assisting parents in using therapeutic parenting strategies.

**Responds** to current trends and research, actively engages in on-going professional development, and commits to utilizing evidence-informed and trauma sensitive practices.

Visit www.adoptionsupport.org and select “Adoption Competency Initiatives”, then “National Training Initiative (NTI)”, to learn more about web-based trainings for child welfare and mental health practitioners.