



# Family Engagement in Research Certificate Program

*An online 10-week Certificate of Completion*

**Offered by**

**Kids Brain Health Network, CanChild and  
McMaster University Continuing Education**



## Family Engagement in Research Certificate Program

The Family Engagement in Research Certificate is a 10-week course offered through McMaster University's Continuing Education Program. The course is delivered in an online format, using McMaster University's Learning Management Platform - Avenue to Learn (A2L or Avenue). Course work will involve live online (synchronous) discussions, review of written materials and case studies, as well as collaborative online (asynchronous) group exercises.

From its inception the course has been developed in partnership by parents and researchers and will be delivered by both experienced parents and researchers. This course is designed for researchers (graduate students, research coordinators, investigators) and family members (parents and siblings) who have an interest in childhood neurodevelopmental research and family-researcher partnerships.

### Course Description:

This course is unique in that it will bring researchers and families together in a fully integrated online course. Learners will gain a better/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 develop an advanced understanding of family engagement in research and be ready to contribute leadership expertise to family/researcher collaborative projects.

### Course Goals:

#### Create a cohort of *family members* who are:

- Invested in contributing to and ready to engage in neurodevelopmental 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 contributing to neurodevelopmental research
- Knowledgeable about family engagement in research
- Capable and confident in engaging with families and other stakeholders in various stages of the research process

### Course Fees:

Scholarships will be provided by Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) to cover course registration costs. This is a research project funded by KBHN, so participants will be invited to participate in evaluation of the program. Space is limited to 30 students per cohort.

## Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course learners will be able to:

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

## Course Schedule:

Week	Topic
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

## Student 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*

For more information and upcoming session details, please contact:  
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