

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

DELIVERED BY

CanChild & Kids Brain Health Network

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

McMaster Continuing Education



**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
IN RESEARCH**
- TRAINING PROGRAM -



FER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Family Engagement in Research (FER) Leadership Academy is a 10-week online course that includes weekly live online group discussions and an individual project (FER Leadership Plan and Elevator Pitch). The course is led by four mentors including researchers and family leaders with a maximum of 12 learners per cohort. Individual and small group mentorship is central to the Leadership Academy.

The overarching aim of the FER Leadership Academy is to be a springboard for future family engagement leadership development in Canada. Specifically, the objective is to develop family and research leaders who advocate, inform, and support organizational and community efforts to engage families in neurodevelopmental and child health research and practice.



COURSE GOALS

CREATE A COHORT OF FAMILY PARTNERS & RESEARCHERS WHO ARE:

- Invested in building leadership and promoting family engagement as a priority at an organizational and/or community level.
- Knowledgeable about the core competencies for family engagement leadership and ready to apply these competencies and mentor others.
- Capable and confident to implement current best practices in family engagement at an organizational and community level.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

- Introduction to the FER Leadership Academy

Week 2

- Family Engagement Core Competencies

Week 3

- Group Mentorship Session: Setting up your Leadership Plan

Week 4

- What do Family Engagement Leaders Need to Know About Equity, Diversity and Inclusion?

Week 5

- Panel Discussion: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and Family Engagement: Real World Applications

Week 6

- Group Mentorship: Leadership Project Updates

Week 7

- Panel Discussion: Implementing Family Engagement at Different Levels

Week 8

- Group Mentorship Session: Navigating your FER Leadership Plan

Week 9

- Family Engagement Leadership Pitch Presentations

Week 10

- Go Forth and Do Awesome Things as Family Engagement Leaders



COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

UPON COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE, LEARNERS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Identify and describe the core competencies (i.e., self-awareness, compassion and empathy, communication, advocacy, and entrepreneurship) of a family engagement leader.
- Create a Leadership Learning Plan to map strengths and areas of growth to build and strengthen FER leadership skills.
- Define and describe equity, inclusion, and diversity and apply these concepts in an institutional context of FER.
- Examine aspects of identity that afford team members more/less privilege and power when engaging in research.
- Understand how to implement FER at different levels of leadership (individual, research, organization, community, policy).
- Communicate ideas related to FER leadership verbally and in writing.

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Every member of our instructor group recognized the need for advanced training in FER. We are thrilled that our vision has come to fruition and that this course will ignite positive change in FER leadership at research institutions and communities across Canada and beyond.

- **Donna Thomson**

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COURSE COMPLETION

Upon successful completion of the course, learners receive a McMaster University certified microcredential.



GRADUATE TESTIMONIAL

“ I came out of the FER Leadership Academy with the knowledge, self-awareness and inspiration to move forward on my path towards becoming a leader in the field. As leaders themselves, the instructors offered invaluable encouragement and guidance based on their deep expertise. They also brought in a number of compelling speakers with unique perspectives to enrich the discussion. Alongside these experts, I benefited from my classmates' depth and breadth of professional and lived experience in FER. For me, the positive impact of the Leadership Academy has been immeasurable. With increased competence and confidence, my goal now is to empower the quiet patients and families who often remain in the background to have a voice in research.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The FER Leadership Academy was developed by Sam Micsinszki, Connie Putterman, Donna Thomson, Michelle Phoenix, Rachel Martens, Alice Soper, Dayle McCauley, Jan Willem Gorter and Andrea Cross at CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research at McMaster University. The course development was funded by Kids Brain Health Network.



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