



Training Requirements for Certification as a Level II Trainer

These requirements were developed by the PCIT International Training Task Force in collaboration with the PCIT International Board of Directors. This document should be considered “dynamic” in that the training and certification requirements will evolve as new research arises in intervention, training, and dissemination. These requirements represent what PCIT experts consider to be the minimum training and skill qualifications necessary for a Level II Trainer.

I. Scope and Limitations of Level II Trainership

- A. Level II Trainers are individuals who have met all of the PCIT International requirements for being a certified PCIT Therapist, a Level I Trainer, and are deemed qualified to teach and supervise therapists internal and external to their own program or agency. However, when training therapists outside of their own program or agency, Level II Trainers are limited to training within their geographic region.
- B. Level II Trainers are approved to conduct the training and consultation of:
 - 1. Individuals who have a master’s degree or higher in a mental health field **AND** who are independently licensed as a mental health service provider (for example, licensed psychologist, licensed psychiatrist, licensed marital and family therapist, licensed practicing counselor, licensed clinical social worker, etc.) **OR** who are working under the supervision of a licensed mental health service provider.
 - 2. Graduate-level students seeking a master’s degree or higher in a mental health field (counseling psychology, clinical psychology, social work, etc.).
 - 3. Psychology doctoral students on pre-doctoral internship, psychology trainees completing postdoctoral fellowship, or psychiatry residents who are treating families under the supervision of the pre-doctoral internship or postdoctoral site.
- C. Level II Trainers must limit their training and consultation to individuals and programs within their named geographic region determined at the time of certification. Geographic region is typically defined as a state or a metropolitan area.

- D. Unless assisting a Master Trainer, Level II Trainers may not train individuals outside of their predetermined geographic region.
- E. Level II Trainers may train certified PCIT Therapists within their geographic region to become Level I Trainers, but they may not train other Level II Trainers unless they are assisting a Master Trainer.

II. Training Requirements of Level II Trainers

To apply for status as a Level II Trainer, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

A. Graduate Education

- 1. Be an independently licensed mental health service provider (for example, licensed psychologist, licensed marital and family therapist, licensed practicing counselor, licensed clinical social worker, etc.).

AND

- 2. Hold a doctoral or master's degree in a mental health field (counseling psychology, clinical psychology, social work, etc.)

B. Case and Training Experience

1. Caseload Requirement

- a. The Level II Trainer applicant must have served as a primary therapist (i.e., lead therapist, equal co-therapist, or live supervisor for 90% of sessions) for a minimum of 20 PCIT cases to graduation criteria as defined by the 2011 PCIT Protocol.

2. Training Experience

- a. The Level II Trainer applicant must have significant experience in training as evidenced by completing all of the following requirements:
 - i. Experience as a trainer for at least ten new therapists who are eligible for certification as a PCIT Therapist. This includes therapists trained in conjunction with a master trainer.
 - ii. Experience training therapists as a trainer for at least two Basic Trainings conducted by two separate Master Trainers and experience providing continued consultation to trainees. During these trainings, the applicant must exhibit expertise in co-leading all small group activities. The candidate must exhibit expertise in presenting the following didactic information: Structure of CDI (PRIDE skills, avoid skills, selective attention); CDI Coaching; PDI Sequence; PDI Coaching; DPICS



- iii. Co-lead one Basic Training consultation call series with a Certified Master Trainer or Level II Trainer for the required 12 months
- iv. Co-Lead one Basic Training consultation call series under consultation of Master Trainer or Level II Trainer (can begin after 4 months of co-leading call)
- v. Experience training Level I applicants as a training assistant for at least one Initial Level I Trainer training conducted by a Level II or Master Trainer and experience providing continued consultation to trainees.
- vi. Experience co-leading one cohort of Level I Trainer calls with a Level II or Master Trainer

3. Active Therapeutic Involvement Requirement

- a. The Level II Trainer applicant must provide PCIT supervision/consultation or direct care of at least 5 PCIT cases annually.

C. Evidence of Active Involvement in the PCIT Community

- 1. Level II applicants must have a documented history of at least 7 years of active involvement in the PCIT community.
- 2. Level II applicants must have at least 3 PCIT publications or presentations at state, national or international PCIT conferences.

D. Competency Requirements

1. Application and Site Visit

- a. Applicants must first complete the Level II application, documenting their completion of all of the guidelines with supporting documentation. If the initial application for Level II Trainership is approved by PCIT International, a Master Trainer site visitor from an institution independent from that of the Level II Trainer applicant and who has not previously trained the applicant will be assigned by PCIT International. The Level II Trainer applicant must arrange the site visit with the assigned visitor. An additional independent Master Trainer or Level II Trainer will be assigned to serve as an off-site reviewer of the applicant's documentation.
- b. The applicant is expected to cover the travel costs of the Master Trainer for the site visit. An honorarium of at least \$1,000 for the site visitor is customary.
- c. Completing the application process, including the site visit, does not guarantee that the applicant will meet the requirements for Level II Trainer status.

E. Ongoing Consultation with a Master Trainer



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1. During the first year of practice as a Level II Trainer, the Level II Trainer should engage in monthly consultation calls with a Master Trainer.
2. After the first year of practice, the Level II Trainer must consult with a Master Trainer at least once every 6 months throughout each 2-year certification period and provide an update on current training activities and an overview of training curriculum.
3. The Level II Trainer is responsible for scheduling the consultation with a Master Trainer and failure to do so may result in removal of Level II Trainer certification.

F. Level II Trainer Applicant should demonstrate competence in:

1. Attending to core elements of the 2011 PCIT Protocol and commitment to treatment fidelity.
2. Ability to structure training that is conducive to effective learning (e.g. balance of didactics and skill rehearsal, establish rapport with trainees, attention to principles of adult learning).
3. Effective use of a Code the Coach system and ability to teach it to Level I trainees.
4. Excellence in checking and tracking trainee competencies.
5. Accurate calculation of DPICS reliability with their trainees.
6. Communicating PCIT International certification procedures.
7. Effectively problem solving challenging PCIT coaching situations during training and consultation calls.
8. Effectively communicating the importance of PCIT fidelity.
9. Maintaining a working alliance with trainees through sensitive and effective methods of training and consultation.
10. Guiding their trainees to meet PCIT International certification requirements.

III. Application Requirements

- A. The Level II Trainer applicant must be a certified PCIT Therapist *before* being eligible to apply for status as a Level I Trainer.
- B. Subsequently, the applicant must be a Certified Level I Trainer for at least 3 years *before* being eligible to apply for status as a Level II Trainer.
- C. The Level II Trainer applicant must also submit letters of endorsement to PCIT International from two Master Trainers who co-trained with the applicant. Letters of endorsement should provide evidence of competence in training other PCIT



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Therapists and/or Level I Trainers with competence in core elements and commitment to treatment fidelity.

- D. Final decisions about certification of Level II Trainers will be made by the PCIT International Board of Directors.

IV. Responsibilities of Certified Level II Trainers

- A. Follow the most current PCIT Training Requirements in the training of PCIT Therapists and Level I Trainers. The Training Requirements are disseminated by the PCIT International Training Task Force and posted on the PCIT International website (www.pcit.org).
- B. Train PCIT Therapists using the 2011 PCIT Protocol and 2013 Clinical Manual for DPICS-IV as disseminated by PCIT International.
- C. Provide guidance to trainees throughout the continuation training and consultation period.
- D. Remain active in PCIT service delivery either by providing PCIT to families directly or by providing supervision/consultation to PCIT Therapists and Level I Trainers.
- E. Promote PCIT to both professional and lay communities.
- F. Remain current in PCIT research through activities such as attending conferences, co-leading a face-to-face Initial Training for PCIT Therapists or Level I Trainer Course led by a Master Trainer, conducting PCIT research, presenting research at conferences, and publishing articles.
- G. Level II Trainers are required to obtain at least 12 hours of PCIT Continuing Education credit every 2 years through educational activities sponsored by the PCIT International Task Force on Continuing Education. PCIT International is an APA-approved CE sponsor and provides continuing PCIT education through its online educational and conference programming.

V. Maintaining Certification

- A. Certification Period: Level II Trainers are certified for 2 years from the beginning date listed on their PCIT Level II Trainer Certificate.
- B. Re-Certification: Certification as a PCIT Level II Trainer is renewable every 2 years. To renew, Level II Trainers must submit a brief application for re-certification and document successful completion of 12 hours of PCIT Continuing Education in programs of learning that have been preauthorized by PCIT International. Additionally, consultation with a Master Trainer must be maintained at least once every 6 months throughout a Level II Trainer's tenure.

VI. Special Exemptions

These Level II training guidelines are in effect in North America. In order to promote global dissemination, the PCIT International Board of Directors may waive certain requirements for Level II applicants outside of North America.



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