



Kathy Flanagan, MSW

Founder and Director, Training and Customer Relations

Kathy Flanagan, a Great Kids, Inc. (GKI) founder and co-author of the Growing Great Kids Prenatal to 36 Months and Preschoolers Home and Center-Based Curricula Series, earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Ohio Northern University and her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Georgia. In 1999, with two other social entrepreneurs, Linda Elliot and Betsy Dew, she founded Great Kids, Inc., aiming to reduce the incidence of adverse childhood experiences and strengthen families by expanding the knowledge and competencies of early parenting support practitioners. Her primary focus at GKI has been on trainer mentoring, building the organization, curriculum and training development, business operations, and international program development & GGK contextualization (Philippine Islands, Canada's Arctic Territories & Pacific & Caribbean territories). She has co-authored all new editions of the Growing Great Kids Curricula Series and the associated Trainer's Outlines, Trainer Mentoring Materials and Post-GGK Certification Advanced Practice Seminars. Kathy currently serves as GKI's Director of training, Trainer Mentoring and Technical Assistance.

In 1974, Kathy began her social work career at Lima, Ohio State Hospital for the Criminally Insane, 2 years later moving onto Clayton County, Georgia Department of Family and Children Services, where until 1986, she conducted Child Abuse investigations and provided on-going treatment services to families. There she developed an extensive and in-depth training program for Child Protective Services workers which was implemented statewide. Kathy also created an educational puppet show for grade school students called "It's Okay to Tell", letting children know it's good to tell an adult if they've experienced physical or emotional abuse, medical neglect or sexual abuse, which was used in 11 states. Kathy initiated and facilitated the first incest support group in Georgia and wrote and produced associated educational materials and videos. In 1986, Kathy's professional focus moved to child abuse prevention with the establishment of the Athens Georgia Child Abuse Prevention Office. After Moving to Wisconsin, at Children Service Society, she provided supervision for multiple prevention and intervention programs. In 1992, she then established and provided administrative/clinical support for one of the first Healthy Families Programs on the mainland US. In the mid-90's Kathy became a National Family Support Worker Trainer, training home visitors from Healthy Families America and other prevention programs.

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