



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: How do I come up with the funding to support Rainbows at my site?**

A: We strive to keep the Rainbows training, Facilitator Manual, and materials as affordable as possible. For almost 30 years the training was as much as \$4000! Now, approximately \$200 can get a group of five children started at a site, and the cost to run additional groups ranges between \$24-64. We realize that many of our sites are on a tight budget and it is challenging to meet the needs of their children; however, we too are a non-profit. Some sites choose to host a fundraiser specifically to support their Rainbows program or ask donors to support the program with a specific amount of funding. Others have asked the parents or caregivers of children who have gone through the program previously to consider donating to the program, if they felt it was worthwhile, or to help sponsor the training of a facilitator, or donate toward the cost of materials, etc. Remember, the long-term cost-effectiveness of the program will justify the initial expense! If cost is still prohibitive for your site, please let us know. We are able to offer a limited number of scholarships, or negotiate lower fees, particularly for sites training multiple facilitators at one time. We also have reduced rates for qualifying sites that meet certain requirements.

### **Q: What do I need to start a Rainbows group at my site (in the U.S.)?**

A: The first step is to identify a volunteer who is willing to facilitate a group. Next, you will want to identify a group or groups of children who have interest in the program. The facilitator, or the sponsoring site, will then need to submit a Site/Group application and a Facilitator application. Once s/he receive a letter of acceptance, s/he will be given a username and password into the Facilitator Dashboard system where s/he can purchase and complete the online training. The training takes about 8 hours to complete and they will receive a certification upon completion. S/he will then receive an electronic Facilitator Manual and can begin planning the weekly meetings for the group(s). Parent letters asking permission for children to attend the Rainbows group should be sent out, and Facilitators will generally hold a parent orientation meeting, or information session, either at the first meeting or prior to the group start date. Confirm the dates and location for the Rainbows group to meet, and then begin!

### **Q: Who can be a Facilitator?**

A: Any volunteer over age 18 that your site has approved, and who fully completes the training and certification, can become a Certified Rainbows Facilitator. Typically, it is a person who is employed by the site and is usually a professional such as a social worker, counselor, faith-based leader, teacher, retired educator/counselor, or someone who already works with the children in some capacity such as a PTA/PTO parent. It is important to bear in mind that the liability for this person to run a Rainbows program falls on your site, so choose wisely. Also, we require all facilitators to have a clean federal background check for the protection of the children. If s/he has already completed one for your site, we will just need a copy. Otherwise, a federal background check can be obtained from our vendor, NCIS, for \$20 using this link: <https://rainbowsforallchildren.quickapp.pro/>



**Q: What should a group look like?**

A: The details of the Rainbows group is really up to each individual site. We give you guidelines for how to organize the groups based on ages of the children and other similar characteristics. However, some sites may find they prefer to run groups that are made up solely of children experiencing the same issue such as divorce, some prefer "mixed loss" groups, or they may wish to blend ages together that work better for their specific children. Some sites choose to allow children to enter the group at any time throughout the 12-14 weeks; some feel that is too disruptive and prefer to only allow new group members in the initial 1-3 sessions. It is up to each site to determine what works best for their group(s), facilitator(s), families and children.

**Q: Are we covered for liability by the Rainbows for All Children organization?**

A: No. Unfortunately, as a 501c3 nonprofit organization, we are not able to carry insurance or liability to cover all of our individual sites. Although we provide training and guidelines for issues such as confidentiality, each site should consider how best to handle insurance and liability individually. This is also why we require facilitators to have a federal background check.

**Q: What time of day and/or day of the week should the group(s) meet?**

A: Again, this is up to each individual site. For example, a school might allow groups to meet during the school day during their lunch hour, free period, or study hour. Some feel that is too disruptive, or emotionally difficult for the children, and prefer they meet before or after school, on a specific evening, or over the weekend. It might be helpful if you speak with the parents of your participants and see what works best for them. Some faith-based organizations like to hold meetings after services and some prefer alternate days. Your site will need to determine what works best for everyone involved. However, we strongly recommend meeting no less often than once/week.

**Q: We have a limited budget. Do we have to purchase materials like workbooks for the children?**

A: No. Those are optional and are not necessary in order to run a successful Rainbows group. They do make it easier to run the group(s) and can help the children feel more involved. However, in the Resource Center of the online training, you will find alternate activities and suggestions for how Facilitators can create materials for the children using supplies and materials they likely already have on hand. We are always happy to help your organization save money and come up with some ideas and creative solutions to work within your budget.

**Q: What if a child completes a group and still wants or needs more support?**

A: Rainbows is designed to potentially be used more than one time, should a child desire to go through it more than once. There are alternate activities in the Resource Center of the online training that can be used. Some sites have also run groups specifically tailored for "returnees" that tackle topics that are more long-term or address a unique stage of grief for those who need more continuous or additional support. Also, every two years there is an additional level of Rainbows so children can progress to the next level in a relatively short span of time.