



Supporting the Non-Offending Caregiver



Jane Straub jane@cornerhousemn.org
CornerHouse Training Director



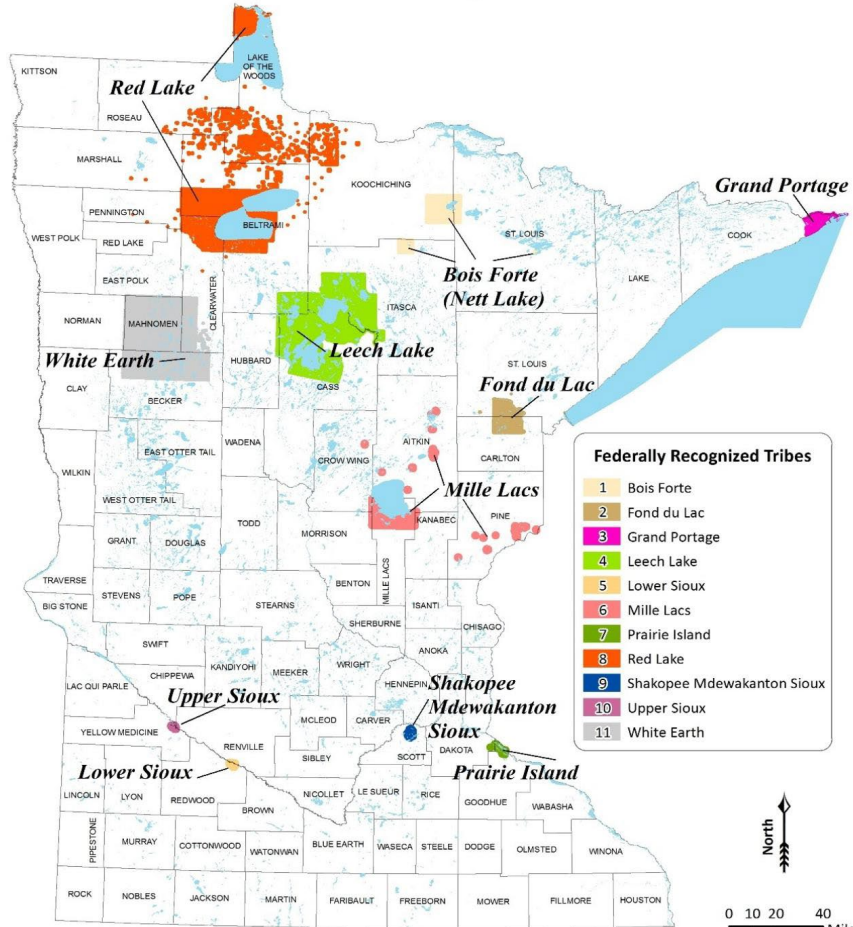
Welcome



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11 Federally Recognized Tribal Nations of Minnesota



Maps are for graphical purposes only. Some areas enlarged for visibility.

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Spectrum of NOC: Why it Matters

A mother's reaction to a child's disclosure of sexual abuse can have a significant impact on whether the child recants their allegations, with research showing that unsupportive or disbelieving mothers are a major contributing factor to a child retracting their initial report of abuse; conversely, a supportive mother can greatly increase the likelihood of a child maintaining their disclosure.



Spectrum of NOC: Why it Matters

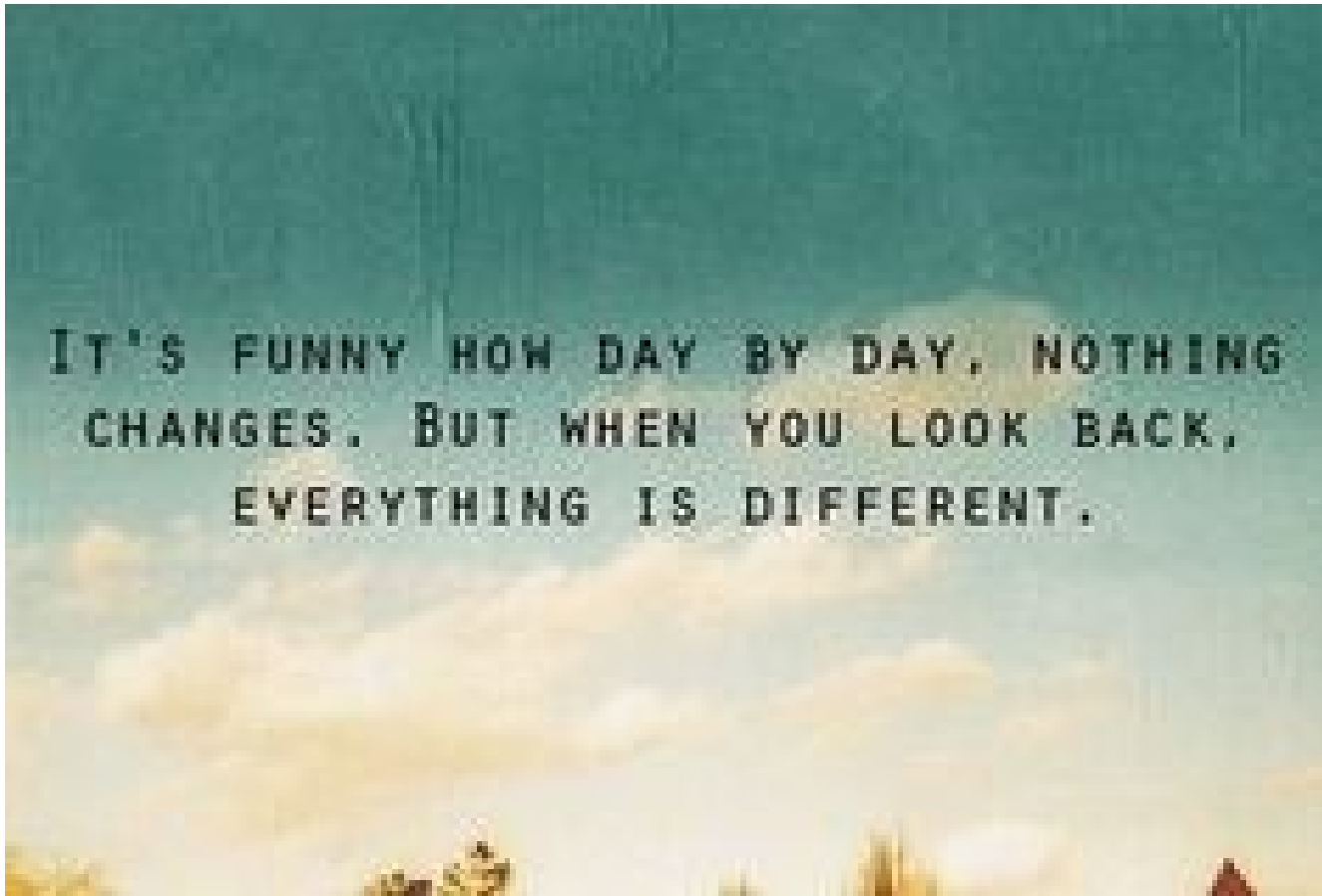
Maternal support is a key factor in prosecuting child sexual abuse cases. When mothers are supportive, cases are more likely to be investigated and prosecuted.



Ripple Effect



Change / Prevention



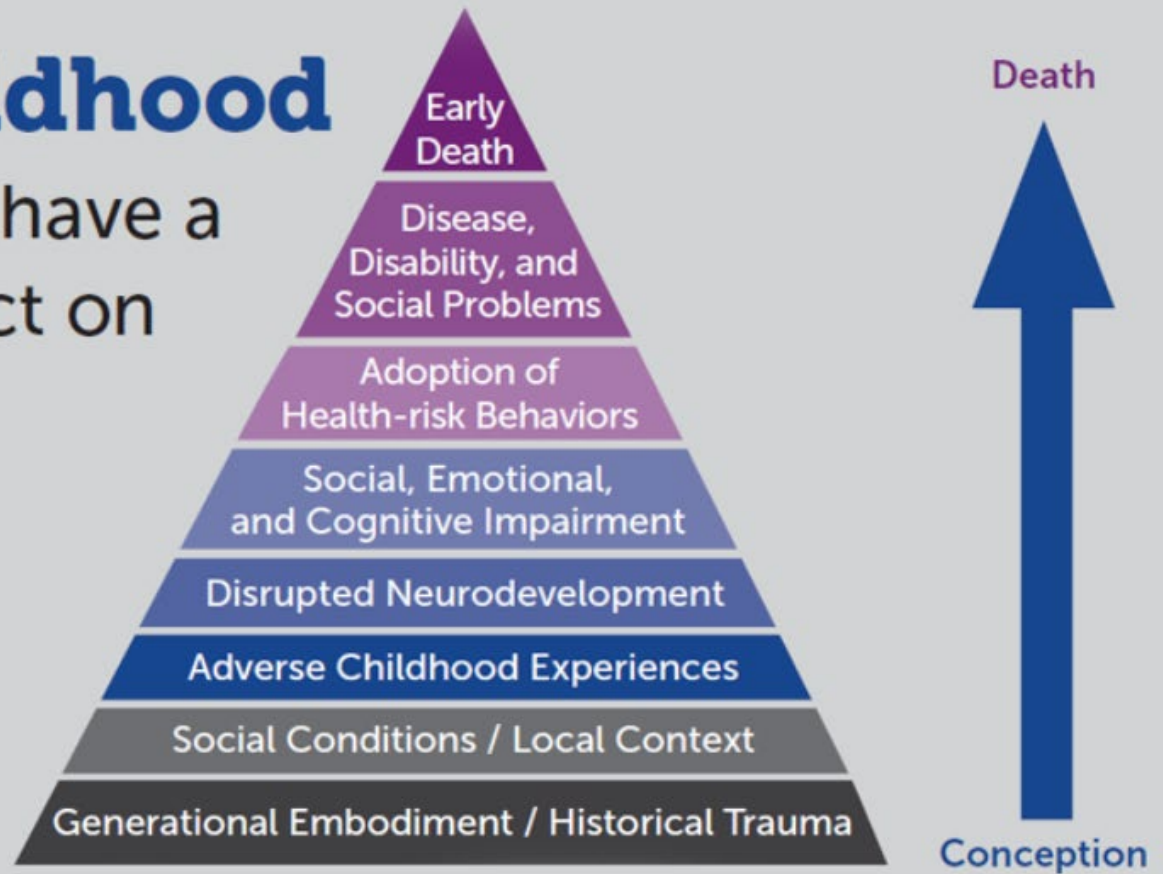
What Is Trauma?

- Individual trauma results from:
 - an **event**
 - series of events or
 - set of circumstances
- that is **experienced** by an individual as:
 - physically or
 - emotionally harmful or
 - life threatening
- and that has lasting adverse **effects** on the individual's:
 - functioning and
 - mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.



Adverse Childhood Experiences

have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration and lifelong health and opportunity.



ACE Score Results

ACE Category		Women (N=9,367)	Men (N=7,970)	Total (N=17,337)
Abuse				
	Emotional Abuse	13.1	7.6	10.6
	Physical Abuse	27.0	29.9	28.3
	Sexual Abuse	24.7	16.0	20.7
Neglect				
	Emotional Neglect	16.7	12.4	14.8
	Physical Neglect	9.2	10.7	9.9
Household Dysfunction				
	Mother Treated Violently	13.7	11.5	12.7
	Household Substance Abuse	29.5	23.8	26.9
	Household Mental Illness	23.3	14.8	19.4
	Parental Separation or Divorce	24.5	21.8	23.3
	Incarcerated Household Member	5.2	4.1	4.7

Amygdala = Alarm System(SRS)

Limbic System



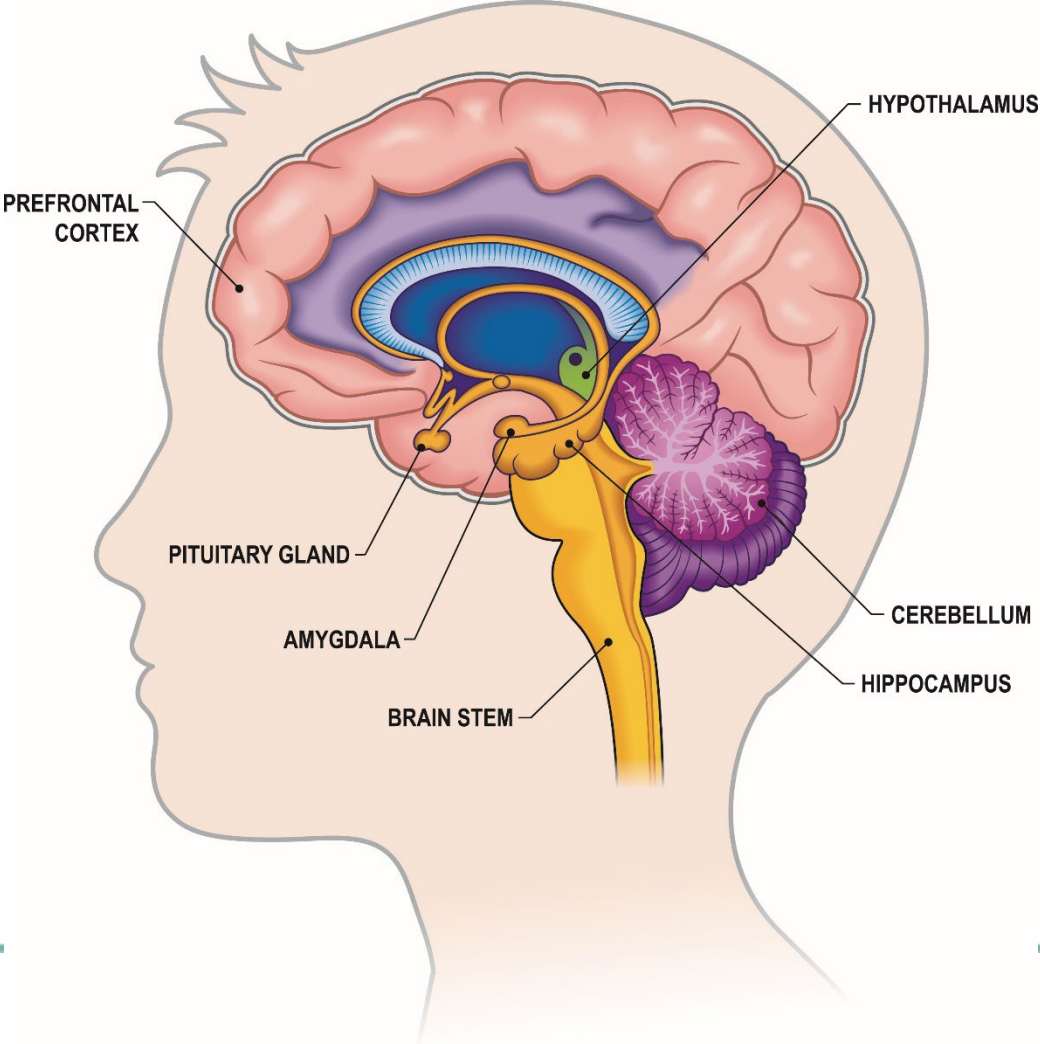
Prefrontal Cortex



The 4 Trauma Responses



Amygdala Hijack



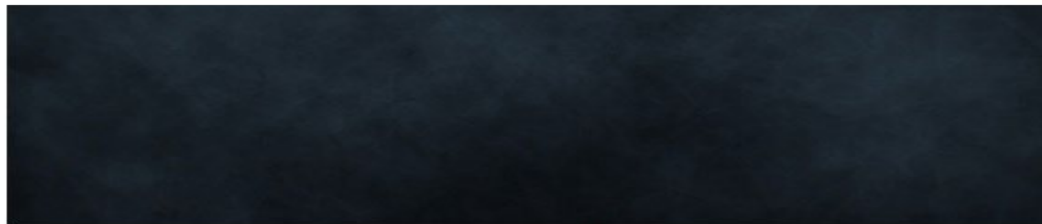
Safety = Control



The single most important issue for traumatized people is to find a sense of safety in their own bodies

Bessel van der Kolk

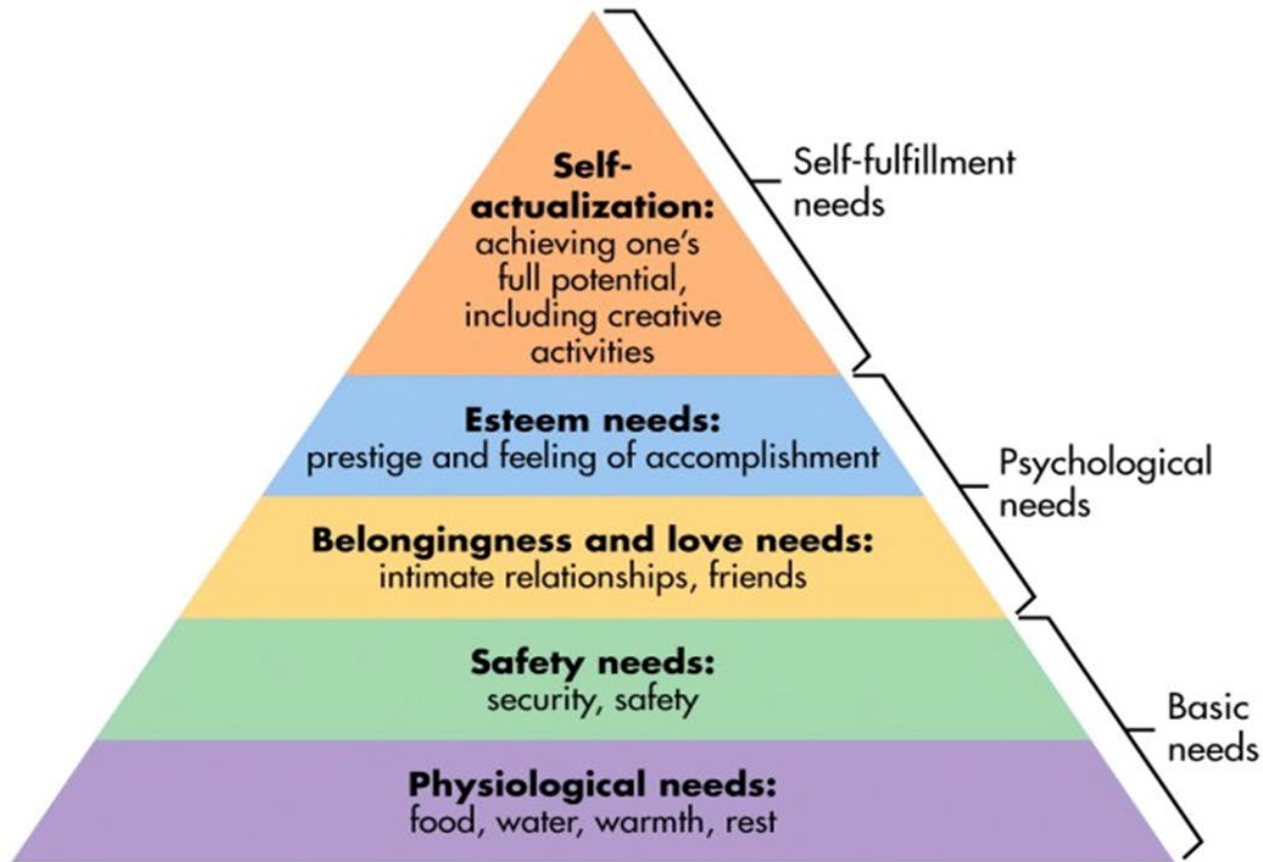
PICTUREQUOTES.com



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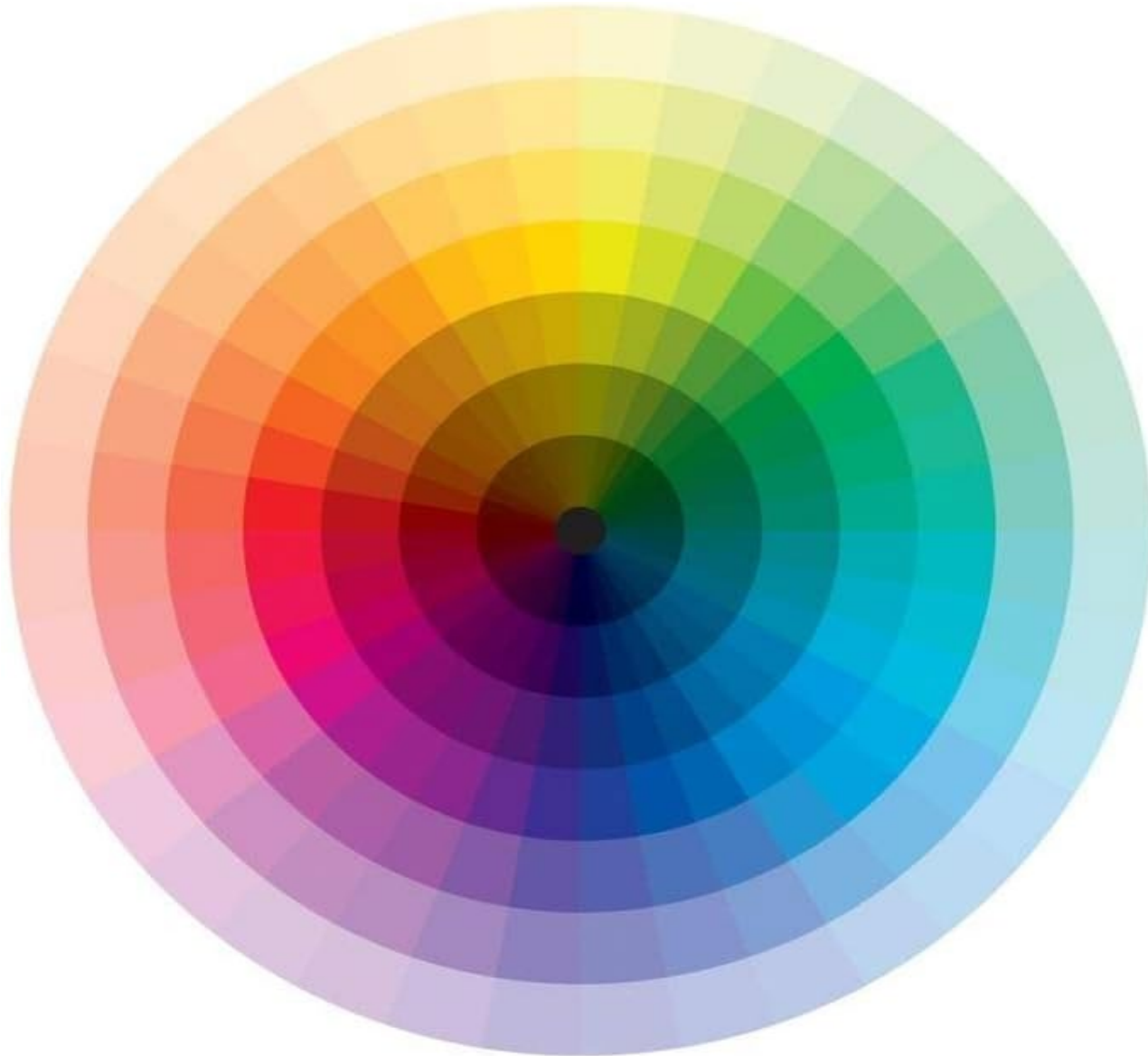
Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Hope and Healing

- *The number one factor in a child's ability to heal is support of the non-offending parent/ caregiver*





The Parent Who “Accompanies” the Child

Supportive

- Believes
- Protective
- Engaged
- Child is priority
- Therapy/Healing
- Support
- Validation
- Open Dialogue

Non-Supportive

- Denies/Doesn't believe
- Sides with AP
- Allows AP access to child
- Encourages recantation
- Sabotage
- Uncooperative
- Blames the Child
- “Disrupts Family”



Barriers to Support (Parent)

- Do not/can't believe
- Would have known/told
- Parent/caregiver to both victim and offender
- Relationship w/AP
- Strained relationship with child
- Own mental health struggles
- Own chemical health struggles
- Experiencing DV
- Unresolved Trauma/History
- Do not understand abuse/grooming



Grooming

- **Definition**

- To make or keep clean and tidy
- To look after the coat of an animal by brushing or cleaning
- To prepare or train someone for a particular task or occupation
- To look after a surface (lawn, ski slope, etc...)
- To prepare a child with the intentions of committing a sexual offense



Adult “Red Flags” Stop It Now

- Ignores boundaries
- Refuses youth to set any limits
- Insists on physical affection and touching
- Frequently interrupts youth in the bathroom
- Turns to youth for emotional or physical comfort
- Over shares personal or private information
- Asks youth to keep secrets
- Spends excessive time communicating with the youth
- Seems “too good to be true”
- Allows youth to get away with inappropriate behavior
- Uses dirty or suggestive jokes
- Exposes youth to adult sexual interactions
- Over interested in youth’s sexuality



Most Kids Never Tell

As many as 75% of
children abused
never tell



Listen



Disclosure

1. something that is disclosed
2. the act (process) of disclosing; revelation

Coded Disclosure: testing/gauging the reaction of the recipient.

- Assume/presume **everyone** has exp trauma & treat the same. (Hep b/HIV)
- “What happened to you?”
- KEEP asking. It is a process. You will get the easy/expected answer first.
- Most important answers are saved for trust.

Types of disclosure

- Purposeful
- Accidental/Not Child's Choice



Disclosure Process

- Denial
- Tentative
- Active
- Recanting
- Reaffirming



Barriers to disclosure (Child)

- Helplessness and Accommodation
- Relationship
- Cultural issues
- Threats
- Didn't understand abuse was happening
- Fears of the child
- Lack of opportunity



Hope and Healing

- *The number one factor in a child's ability to heal is support of the non-offending parent/ caregiver*



Factors for Support



- **Help them find support** -
Some non-offending caregivers will experience significant distress including symptoms of PTSD, Depression and General Symptom Distress.



Support for NOC

- Acknowledge their pain and experience
- Listen
- Emotional Support
- Resources
- Education
- Self-Care
- Navigation of Process
- Check-in/Check-in/Check-in
- Acknowledge their pain and denial
- Educate/Educate/Educate
- Impact of Abuse on the child
- Professional Supports
- Open Dialogue
- Be Patient AND Persistent
- Child is PRIORITY
- Be Aware of Risk/Safety Concerns for Child



“Thank you for sharing that with me”

- Guilt/Shame/Blame
- Failure to Protect
- Anger and Fear
- Grief and Loss
- Tools for Disclosure
- Age Appropriate: Who to tell
- Healthy Touch
- Healthy Sexuality
- Consent
- Person **AND** Abuser
- “**What** questions do you have for me?”
- “What has been most difficult for you?”
- “Is there any experience from your childhood that is surfacing?”
- “It is common for parents/caregivers to experience **many emotions.**”
- “*I believe you*”
- Resources



- **Encourage the parent to believe her child**
 - Parents can begin to cope with the reality of their situation once they trust their child.



• **Someone to talk to**

A trusted friend

The victim
advocate

Support group



The world
could use more
good
listeners







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