

Considerations for School Social Workers

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1. Please reconsider your biases regarding parenting problems and how we define good parents and successful children/youth and adults.
2. "Helicopter parents/caregivers" are often judged harshly, but there is a heightened and legitimate need to protect and advocate for their kids. This is paramount and should be honoured and respected.
3. We need to focus on protecting some of our most vulnerable, all the while focusing on dignity. It is important to think about how we would demonstrate love and support to our grandparents with memory issues or cognitive decline for a moment. I don't think we typically are as kind to our young people with legitimate memory and or organizational challenges.
4. With the right supports and messaging, some complex neurodevelopmental disorders (CND) such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder can be prevented and the impact of Prenatal Alcohol Exposure/FASD and trauma and attachment difficulties can be mitigated.
5. CND is often inter-generational. People with CND can be very good and capable parents with support, yet there often is a presumption of incapacity.
6. When supports are in place and outcomes have improved please don't take the supports away assuming that our job is done. Let's shift and reduce the intensity of supports potentially, but keep the scaffolding in place otherwise we're setting individuals up for failure.
7. CND is indiscriminate and is in all of our circles: professional and personal as well. Where there is alcohol, there is the impact of PAE and FASD. There are highly vulnerable populations identified based on who all have been diagnosed thus far. We must remember that many people with CND/FASD just don't know it yet. Our support services are not helpful and in fact can be harmful when we don't recognize CNDs.
- 8 People have the right to make informed decisions, and we have the responsibility to offer evidence-based information.
9. Help spread the word. It is up to all of us to support healthy pregnancies and healthy families, and to ensure that we do what we can to help people be better understood.
10. This is a Human Rights issue. "All persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms"



To learn more feel free to check out Angela's new book, "*A Complicated and Beautiful Brain*" found here... (QR code)
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