Module #9
Working with Adoptive Parents on Managing Children’s Behaviors

Student Packet
Module #9 Working with Adoptive Parents on Managing Children’s Behaviors

Overview of Module

In this module, students will review the behavioral implications of early trauma and attachment disruption. Focus will be given to clinicians’ knowledge and skills in helping adoptive parents identify child behaviors of concern and managing their children’s behavior problems. Students will examine the role of genetics in a variety of medical and psychological conditions and the potential impact of behavior. Focus will be given to how clinicians can assist adoptive parents in managing and using appropriate interventions, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Dialectic Behavioral Therapy (DBT), with the children and adolescents who are engaging in severe behaviors. The module concludes with additional considerations and tools for adoptive parents in managing their children’s behavior.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

#1. Identify at least three behavior consequences of early emotional trauma on young children; on school-age children; and on adolescents.
#2. Describe one therapeutic intervention in working with adoptive parents who describe their child as “difficult.”
#3. Define a “therapeutic home” for an adopted child and list at least three principles underlying a therapeutic home.
#4. Describe how you would clinically incorporate the concept of triggers in your work with adoptive parents in forecasting difficult times with their child.
#5. Define self-regulation and its two components and identify at least two tools you could use in your clinical practice to assess a child’s ability to self-regulate.
#6. Describe how you would use the DSM-5 on autism and ADHD in your clinical work with adopted children/youth.
#7. Describe how you would distinguish your clinical work with children with ODD and with children with attachment disorders who exhibit oppositional behavior.
#8. Describe the primary types of non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) that you might expect to see among adopted children and adolescents.
#9. Describe the precursors to self-injury and at least two clinical interventions you might use with an adopted child who has exhibited self-harming behaviors.
#10. Describe the use of DBT-A with an adopted adolescent and his/her family.
#11. Describe at least two interventions that you would use with adoptive parents on self-care issues.
Students’ Assignments

Read the following prior to class:

- **Adoption USA: A Chartbook Based on the 2007 Survey of National Survey of Adoptive Parents:**
  Social and emotional well being
  [http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/09/NSAP/chartbook/chartbook.cfm?id=20](http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/09/NSAP/chartbook/chartbook.cfm?id=20) Be prepared to share in class the key take-aways from this study.

- **Mark Coen. Adoption Issues and Self-Harm: Suicidal Thoughts in Adopted Children.**
  [http://adoptionvoicesmagazine.com/adoptive-parents/adoptee-self-harm/#.U7F_zONOUYO](http://adoptionvoicesmagazine.com/adoptive-parents/adoptee-self-harm/#.U7F_zONOUYO) Be prepared to discuss in class:
  1. How might a therapist work with an adopted child whose adoption-related grief and loss is being expressed in self-harm?
  2. How might a therapist work with an adopted child who does not outwardly express any anger?
  3. As a therapist, how might you use the understanding that trauma is locked in children’s bodies?
  4. What are your thoughts about your clinical practice with adopted children/teens who are manifesting non-suicidal self-harming behaviors?
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Agenda

9:00AM – 9:15AM Welcome and Announcements

9:15AM – 10:00AM Introduction; Behavioral Consequences of Early Impacts on Brain Development, Childhood Trauma and Attachment Disruption

10:00AM – 10:30AM Working with Adoptive Parents to Identify Behaviors of Concern

10:30AM – 10:45AM Break

10:45AM – 12:00PM Helping Adoptive Parents Manage Their Children’s Behaviors: Part 1

12:00PM – 1:00PM Lunch

1:00PM – 1:45PM Helping Adoptive Parents Manage Their Children’s Behaviors: Part 2 -- Self-Regulation

1:45PM – 3:00PM The Role of Genetics in Cognitive and Mental Health Disorders

3:00PM – 3:15PM Break

3:15PM – 4:15PM Helping Adoptive Parents Manage Severe Behavior Issues

4:15PM – 4:25PM Self-Care for Adoptive Parents: Healing the Healer

4:25PM – 4:30PM Closing and Summary
Reading List

Trauma, Self-Regulation and Behavior


Brodzinky, D.M. Long-term Outcomes in Adoption. Available at: http://futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/03_01_12.PDF

Bruce, J., Tarullo, A.R. & Gunnar, M.R. Disinhibited Social Behavior Among Internationally Adopted Children. Available at: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2629385/


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Perry, B.D. *Self-Regulation: The Second Core Strength*. Available at: http://teacher.scholastic.com/professional/bruceperry/self_regulation.htm

**Schizophrenia and Adoption**


**Self-Harm**

American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. *Adolescent Self-Harm*. Available at: https://www.aamft.org/imis15/content/consumer_updates/adolescent_self_harm.aspx


**Cognitive Behavioral Therapy**

Baily, V. *Cognitive-behavioral therapies for children and adolescents*. Available at: http://apt.rcpsych.org/content/7/3/224.full


**Dialectical Behavior Therapy**


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**Research**


