

Factors Associated with Good Outcomes for At-Risk Children Who Receive Social Services



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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Purposes & Definitions

- Purposes**
- To identify factors associated with good outcomes when children and their families receive social services
 - To develop training materials that prepare professionals to
 - identify positive factors
 - to identify barriers to good outcomes
 - to develop strategies for working through barriers
- Definitions of Good Outcomes**
- Attachments to others
 - Has a safe home
 - Works to capacities in school
 - Emotional health
 - Prosocial beliefs & behaviors

Parent Factors

- Do whatever it takes for the sake of children
- Psychologically and physically available to children
- Sensitive & responsive to children
- Provides love, safety, structure, & predictability to children
- Works cooperatively with service providers (SP)

These factors predict success

Child Factors

- Have parents like those just described
- Willing to engage in programs offered such as
 - trauma-related services
 - services for anti-social behaviors
 - tutoring
 - recreation
- Shows positive behavior changes
 - Self-regulation
 - Executive function
- Confides in service providers
- Good management of any neurological issues
- Pro-social values and goals
 - Resources to attain them



Children's behaviors reflect parents' behaviors

Service Factors

- Providers**
- Show up
 - Follow through
 - Listen
 - Set limits
 - Form positive relationships with clients
 - Tolerant of negativity & not knowing
 - Have clinical knowledge
 - Understand systems issues
 - Have resources to offer clients
 - Support client autonomy
 - *loco parentis* only when necessary
 - Keep themselves safe

Supportive service providers have support within their agencies

- Systems Issues**
- Reasonable workload
 - Supervision
 - problem-solving
 - provision of information
 - support for emotional reactions
 - Trust in supervision processes
 - Adequate salary & benefits
 - Cooperative collaborative relationships
 - Adequate service network
 - Administrative support to foster collaborations
 - Administrative support to lobby funders and policy makers

Outcomes

- Good Child Outcomes**
- Condition 1**
- Positive relationship with SP: parent
 - Positive relationship with SP: child
 - Engagement in services: parent
 - Engagement in services: child
 - Parent-child relationship positive

- Condition 2**
- Poor relationship with SP: parent
 - Positive relationship with SP: child
 - No engagement in services: parent
 - Engagement in services: child
 - Parent-child relationship: negative

- Mixed Child Outcomes**
- Poor relationship with SP: parent
 - Positive relationship with SP: child
 - Good engagement in some services: parent
 - Good engagement in some services: child
 - Parent-child relationship: negative

- Poor Child Outcomes**
- Poor relationship with SP: parent
 - Poor relationship with SP: child
 - No engagement in services: parent
 - No engagement in services: child
 - Parent-child relationship: negative

