

Engaging the Whole Family

Presentation to Home Visitors, May 21, 2015

Who is Robert Wright?

- A RSW Private Practitioner
 - direct practice and forensics
- Former Ex. Dir. F&CS Cumberland County
- Expert in Parenting Capacity Assessment
- Former Ex. Dir. Child & Youth Strategy



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The Goal

This interactive workshop will explore the importance of **working together** with **families** in its most **diverse and broadest** sense in your role as **Home Visitors**. Recognizing the importance of **family context** on the health, well-being of **children and youth**, the presenter will address the keys to **family engagement** from a holistic and **community** perspective

The Challenges of Home Family Work

- What are some of the challenges with home based family work?

- Whole Group Exercise

Agenda

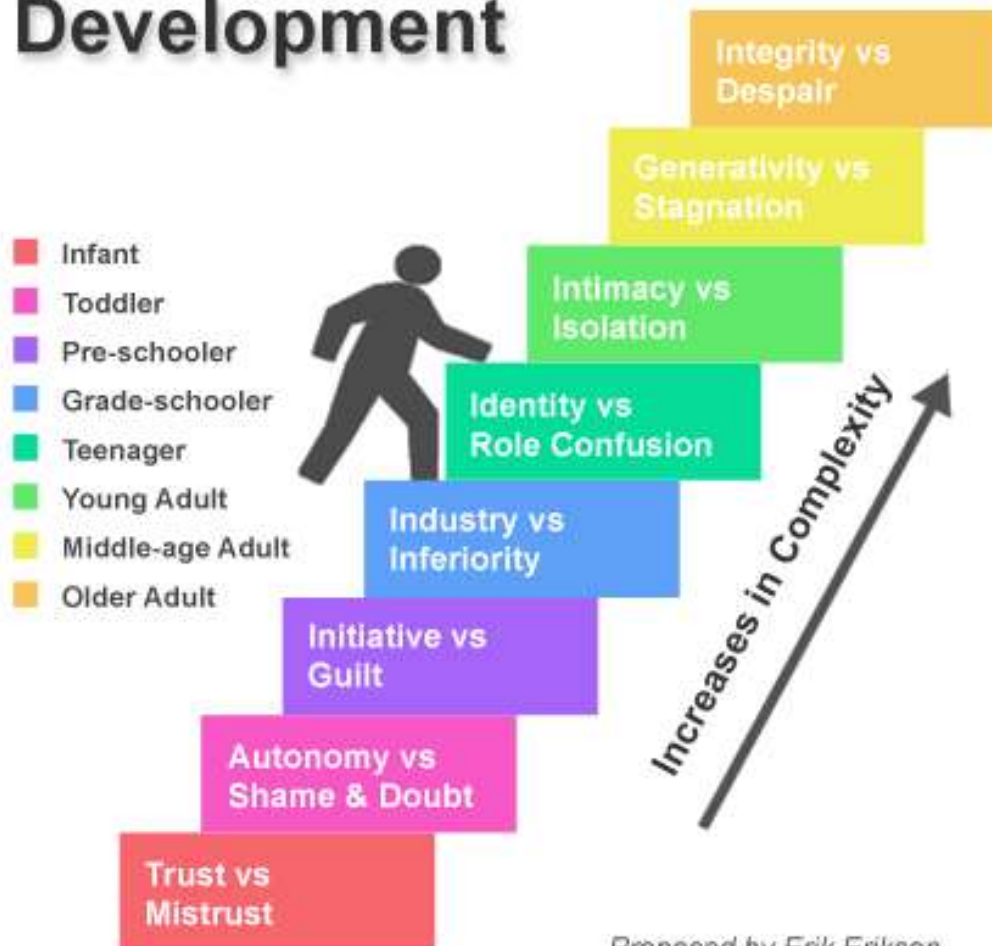
- 8:30 Hello Again!
- 9:15 Keys to Engagement - discussion
- 9:30 Theories behind the work
psycho-social development
systems theory
cultural competence insight to engagement
racial identity development - example
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Theories behind the work
psycho-social development
systems theory
cultural competence insight to engagement
racial identity development
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 What do we mean by “family”
Engaging parents, grandparents, chosen families
Engaging fathers
Engaging children/youth in work
Final Questions

Keys to Engagement

Understanding
Acceptance (non-judgement)
Mutual Trust
Truth
Competence
Agreed Purpose (relevance)
Progress

Erikson's Psychosocial Theory

Stages of Psychosocial Development



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Proposed by Erik Erikson

Stage	Basic Conflict	Important Events	Outcome
Infancy (birth to 18 months)	Trust vs. Mistrust	Feeding	Children develop a sense of trust when caregivers provide reliability, care, and affection. A lack of this will lead to mistrust.
Early Childhood (2 to 3 years)	Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt	Toilet Training	Children need to develop a sense of personal control over physical skills and a sense of independence. Success leads to feelings of autonomy, failure results in feelings of shame and doubt.
Preschool (3 to 5 years)	Initiative vs. Guilt	Exploration	Children need to begin asserting control and power over the environment. Success in this stage leads to a sense of purpose. Children who try to exert too much power experience disapproval, resulting in a sense of guilt.
School Age (6 to 11 years)	Industry vs. Inferiority	School	Children need to cope with new social and academic demands. Success leads to a sense of competence, while failure results in feelings of inferiority.
Adolescence (12 to 18 years)	Identity vs. Role Confusion	Social Relationships	Teens need to develop a sense of self and personal identity. Success leads to an ability to stay true to yourself, while failure leads to role confusion and a weak sense of self.
Young Adulthood (19 to 40 years)	Intimacy vs. Isolation	Relationships	Young adults need to form intimate, loving relationships with other people. Success leads to strong relationships, while failure results in loneliness and isolation.
Middle Adulthood (40 to 65 years)	Generativity vs. Stagnation	Work and Parenthood	Adults need to create or nurture things that will outlast them, often by having children or creating a positive change that benefits other people. Success leads to feelings of usefulness and accomplishment, while failure results in shallow involvement in the world.
Maturity (65 to death)	Ego Integrity vs. Despair	Reflection on Life	Older adults need to look back on life and feel a sense of fulfillment. Success at this stage leads to feelings of wisdom, while failure results in regret, bitterness, and despair.

Erikson's Theory – Children & Youth

Approximate Age	Virtues	Psycho Social Crisis	Significant Relationship	Existential Question	Examples
0–2 years	Hopes	Basic Trust vs. Mistrust	Mother	Can I Trust the World?	Feeding, Abandonment
2–4 years	Will	Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt	Parents	Is It Ok To Be Me?	Toilet Training, Clothing Themselves
4–5 years	Purpose	Initiative vs. Guilt	Family	Is It Ok For Me To Do, Move and Act?	Exploring, Using Tools or Making Art
5–12 years	Competence	Industry vs. Inferiority	Neighbors, School	Can I Make It In The World Of People And Things?	School, Sports
13–19 years	Fidelity	Identity vs. Role Confusion	Peers, Role Model	Who Am I? What Can I Be?	Social Relationships

Bronfenbrenner's System's Theory

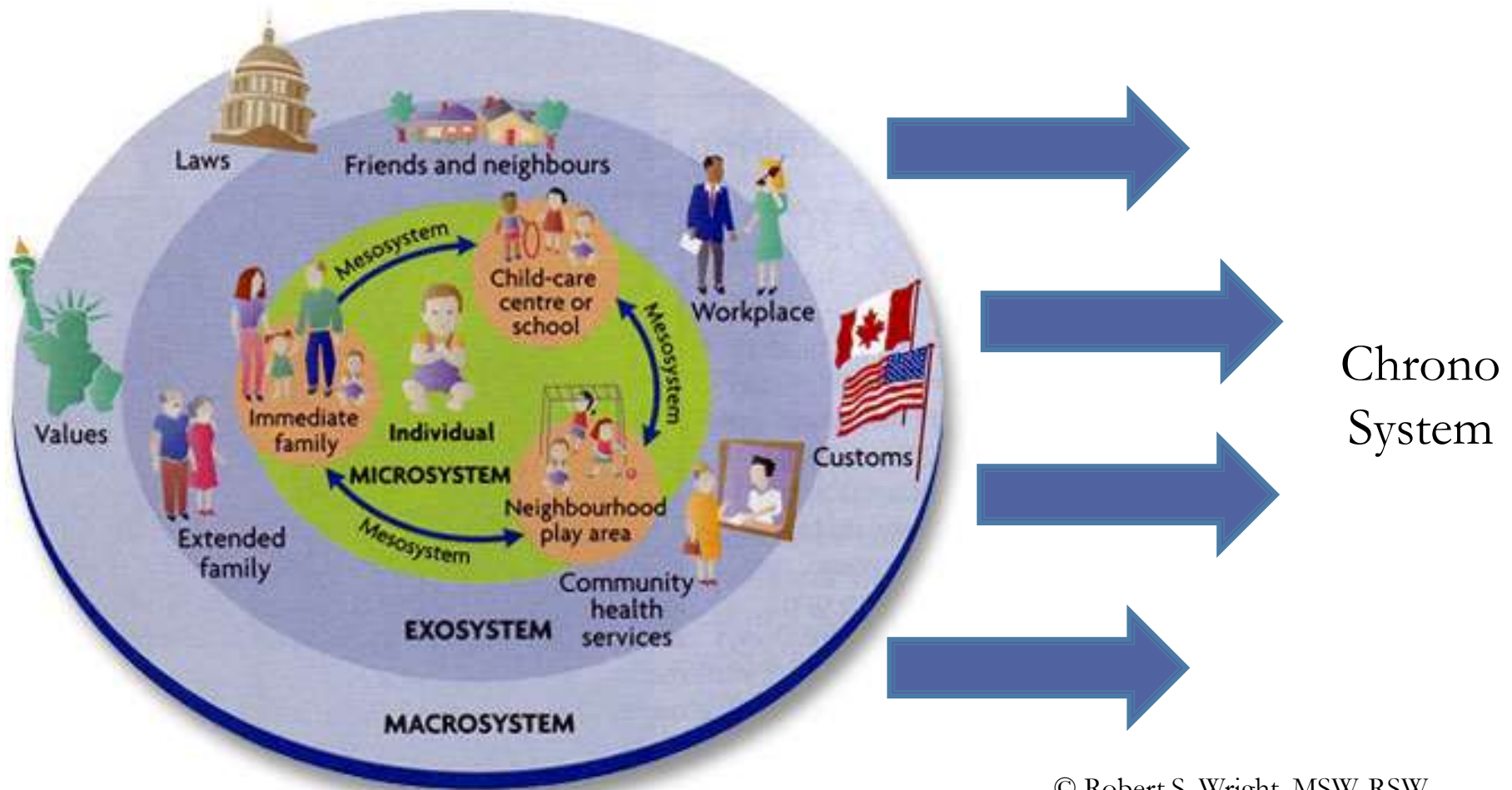


Figure 1. Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory
(in Berk & Roberts, 2009, p. 28)

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Cultural Competence: Definition

- Cultural competence refers to an ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures. Cultural competence comprises five essential capacities. We must:
 - A. understand our own cultural positions and how they differ from and are similar to others
 - B. understand the social and cultural reality in which we live and work and in which our clients live and work
 - C. cultivate appropriate attitudes towards cultural difference
 - D. be able to generate and interpret a wide variety of verbal and non-verbal responses
 - E. understand structural oppression and demonstrate awareness and commitment to social justice

Racial Identity Development - ANS

Stage	Age	Critical Issue	Process for Resolution	Significant Relationship(s) & Resources
Pre-school	0-5yrs	comfort with visible racial differences	Adequate and enlightened physical care	primary physical caregiver
Early school	5-9yrs	understanding of personal equality & competence	Facilitated success in social and academic pursuits	extended family members/school personnel
Early	11-	ability to	Knowledge of	same race role models 1
Adolescence	14yrs	appropriately negotiate racial issues with peers	history & politics of race	culturally specific & anti-racists education
Later	15-	comfort with	Knowledge of	peer group, same race
Adolescence	18yrs	personal choices in context of race	family values re: race, sex, reproduction & vocation	role models, community censors & informal agents

Family! ?

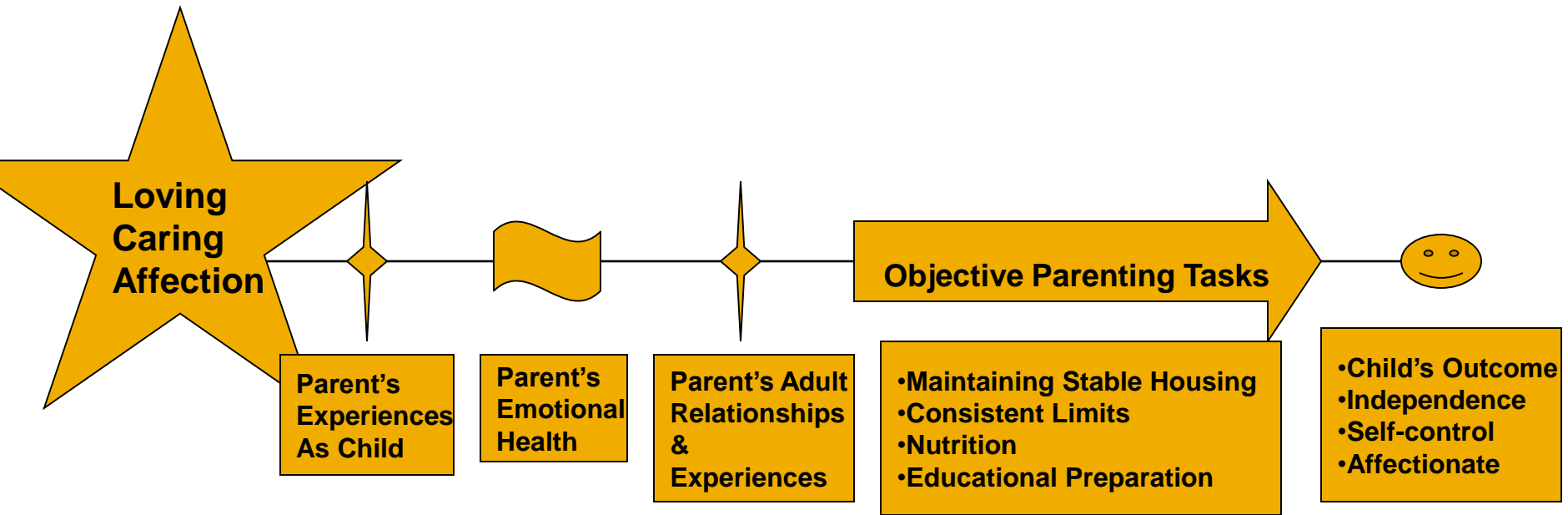
Exercise

- Browse the obituaries. Look for evidence of “family”.
- Look for evidence of diversity.

Working with Fathers

- Age (of father and child)
- Father child interaction when alone
- Father's experience as child
- Social class, race and orientation
- Gender unease
- Sexual anxieties and suspicions
- Father's gender role ideology
- Violence between parents

Working with Parents: The Laser Beam of Love



Engaging the whole family

- Mother is a 17 year old severely delayed White woman
- Father is a 19 year old criminally engaged ANS young man
- Neither of them have living parents, but both come from large families with many uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters
- The couple have lived with father's aunt since discharge from hospital, mother's sister has been significantly involved supporting the family
- Request is to provide support to “The Family”
 - Who is the Family? Who do you engage? What are the anticipated goals? What are the steps you take to develop a plan? What are the likely critical issues?

Engaging Children and Youth

- The power of “knowing”
- Relevance and truth
- Engagement is tolerance and understanding

Q&A

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