

Parenting Capacity Assessment  
In the Nova Scotia Context

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Dalhousie School of Social Work  
Child Welfare Class of Prof. Winnie Benton

Guest Lecturer  
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(The PowerPoint Presentation that is the main substance of this presentation may be found at:  
[www.robertswright.ca/PCAPresentationChildWelfareClass20101021.ppt](http://www.robertswright.ca/PCAPresentationChildWelfareClass20101021.ppt))

Presentation Overview

1. What does it mean to be a competent parent?
2. Excerpts from the Toronto Parenting Capacity Assessment Project Manual here:  
[www.robertswright.ca/TOPCAManualExcerpts.pdf](http://www.robertswright.ca/TOPCAManualExcerpts.pdf)
3. Effective Parenting Capacity Assessment: Key Issues. A Research to Practice Note from the New South Wales Government:  
[www.community.nsw.gov.au/DOCSWR/assets/main/documents/researchnotes\\_parenting\\_keyissues.pdf](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/DOCSWR/assets/main/documents/researchnotes_parenting_keyissues.pdf)
4. Parenting Capacity Assessment: What is it, who does it?
  - a. Psychosocial assessment of parenting
  - b. Parenting ability vs. parenting capacity
  - c. Essential knowledge sets
    - i. Psychosocial development bonding and attachment
    - ii. Parenting roles and functions
    - iii. Trauma/crisis
    - iv. Major medical/mental illness
    - v. Family systems
    - vi. Psycho-sexual development
    - vii. Socio-cultural issues with target population
    - viii. Legislative/regulatory/policy environment
    - ix. Role of the expert witness
5. The Advent of PCA in the field of Child Welfare in NS
6. Reliance on external assessors

7. Toronto Parenting Capacity Assessment Project
8. Case examples:
  - a. On Hoarding: [www.robertswright.ca/HoardingExcerpt.pdf](http://www.robertswright.ca/HoardingExcerpt.pdf)
9. Other Resources:
  - a. NSW Parenting Capacity Assessment Literature Review:  
[www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/assets/main/documents/research\\_parenting\\_capacity.pdf](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/docswr/assets/main/documents/research_parenting_capacity.pdf)
  - b. PCA Training notice by former IPCA Trainer Donna Novosel:  
[www.socialwork.utoronto.ca/conted/workshops/apc.htm](http://www.socialwork.utoronto.ca/conted/workshops/apc.htm)