

Critical Crossroads: Resources for Recognizing and Addressing Trauma in Children and Youth with Disabilities



Formed Families Forward
Kelly Henderson, Ph.D.
Beth Spivack, MSW
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Formed Families Forward - who we are...

- A family-led resource center in Northern Virginia supporting foster, adoptive and kinship families who are raising children, youth & young adults with special needs, and professionals who work with our families.
 - We offer free training, consultations to families, events, resources, and systems navigation. Also - peer support groups; webinars; youth classes, trainings; *Positive Parenting* classes; videos and other resources.
 - Participant in five No Va Trauma Informed Community Networks (TICNs); ACE Interface trainers
 - Family partner to Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS; a VDOE project)
- SPRING FORWARD Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Family Fun Day 4/22/23!

Learning Objectives

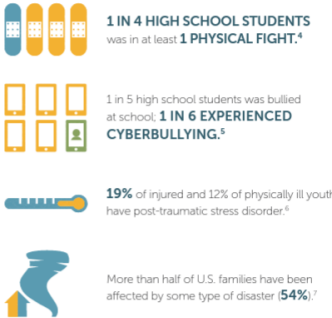
- Review trauma and its impact on educational performance and other outcomes
- Identify signs of trauma-informed care in schools and community settings
- Provide strategies so parents and caregivers can advocate for trauma-informed care
- Name actions that empower trauma-impacted youth to foster independence, self-advocacy and competency

Beth.Spivack@formedfamiliesforward.org
Kelly.Henderson@formedfamiliesforward.org

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The national average of child abuse and neglect victims in 2013 was **679,000**, or **9.1 victims per 1,000 children**.²



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Statistics for Students Receiving Special Education in Virginia

- 13.8% of students in Virginia have an IEP



The Impact of Trauma on Children with Disabilities Video



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Virginia Department of Education, 2022

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Critical Crossroads Video 1: The Impact of Trauma on Children with Disabilities - YouTube

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Leverage points- Evaluations and IEPs

For students with disabilities-

Initial and reevaluation: collection of relevant functional, developmental and academic information about the child to determine if there is a disability; must be sufficiently comprehensive to identify all of the child's special education and related services needs, and educational needs

Individualized Education Program (IEP): written statement for a child with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised in a team meeting; specifies the individual educational needs of the child and what special education and related services are necessary to meet the needs.

Trauma-Informed Care for Children with Disabilities Video



Critical Crossroads Part 2: Trauma-Informed Care for Children with Disabilities - YouTube

Trauma-Informed Evaluation Practices in School

Input from the child's "parent"

VS.

Our family is invited to share information about trauma that is relevant to the evaluation, such as how trauma impacts our student's ability to learn, manage feelings and behavior, and interact with others. Specific questions or detailed information about trauma experiences do not have to be shared.



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Trauma-Informed Evaluation Practices in School

Assess the child

VS.

Our family can reschedule the assessment if our student is having a challenging day for reasons such as lack of sleep, emotional dysregulation, exposure to trauma triggers or any other issue that will impact their ability to fully engage.



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Trauma-Informed IEP Process

Student is invited to the IEP meeting

VS.

If our student is going to attend the meeting, the student is prepared to actively participate and made to feel like it is a safe environment. Preparation includes explaining the purpose of the meeting, reviewing the agenda, visiting the meeting room and deciding where to sit. Our student is encouraged to share their own challenges and strengths.



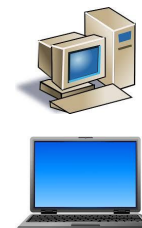
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Trauma-Informed IEP Process

IEP accommodations and modifications

VS.

The accommodations and modifications in the IEP add to our student's sense of safety. They may increase predictability and routine, minimize transitions, offer sensory opportunities, build supportive peer relationships and develop self-esteem.



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Critical Crossroads English & Spanish Resources

Short videos on:

- The Impact of Trauma on Children with Disabilities
- Trauma-Informed Care for Children with Disabilities

Checklists on:

- Trauma-Informed Student Evaluations
- Trauma-Informed IEPs

Infographic on:

- How Trauma-Informed Care Benefits Children and Youth with Disabilities

Find Resources at:

Web Address - <http://bit.ly/3Gzg1J1>

QR Code



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Session
Evaluation!

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