

The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children: Considerations for Child Centered Parenting Time Arguments

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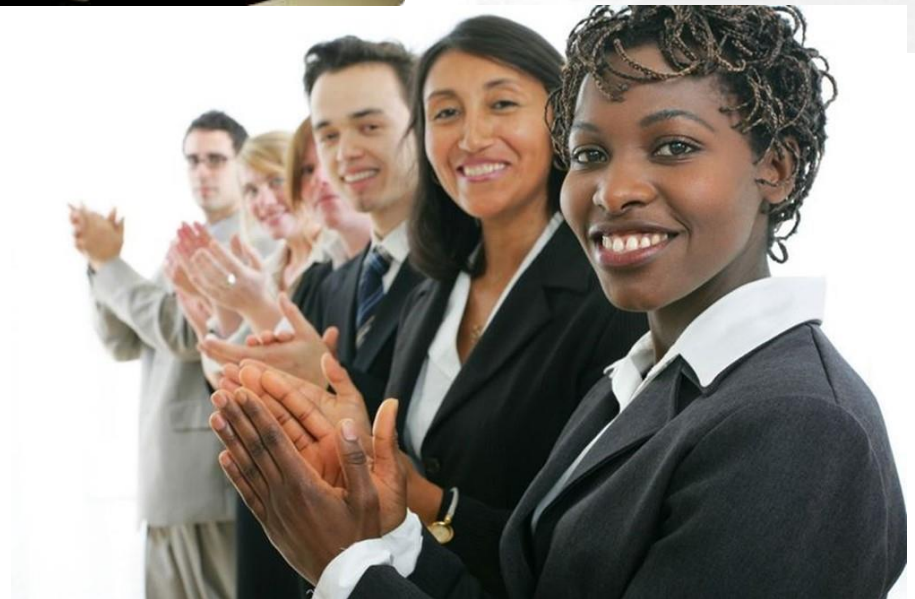
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MULTNOMAH COUNTY
**DEFENDING
CHILDHOOD**
PROTECT HEAL THRIVE

Defending Childhood Initiative

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THANK YOU!




“The Never Ending World”



“In this world, everyone has one friend (plus a backup in case something happens to the one friend). There is no fighting or hurting, because everyone loves each other. The kids know they are safe, so they make friends.”

Learning Objectives



Definitions and Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CEV: the scope of the problem• DV as a risk factor
Impact of DV exposure on children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family dynamics, roles• Neurobiological impact / development
Healing and Resiliency	

A note on language: pronouns & survivor/abuser

take
note!



How Do We Define Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a **PATTERN** of coercive and/or violent tactics perpetrated by one person against a current or former intimate partner, which establishes and maintains power and control over that person.

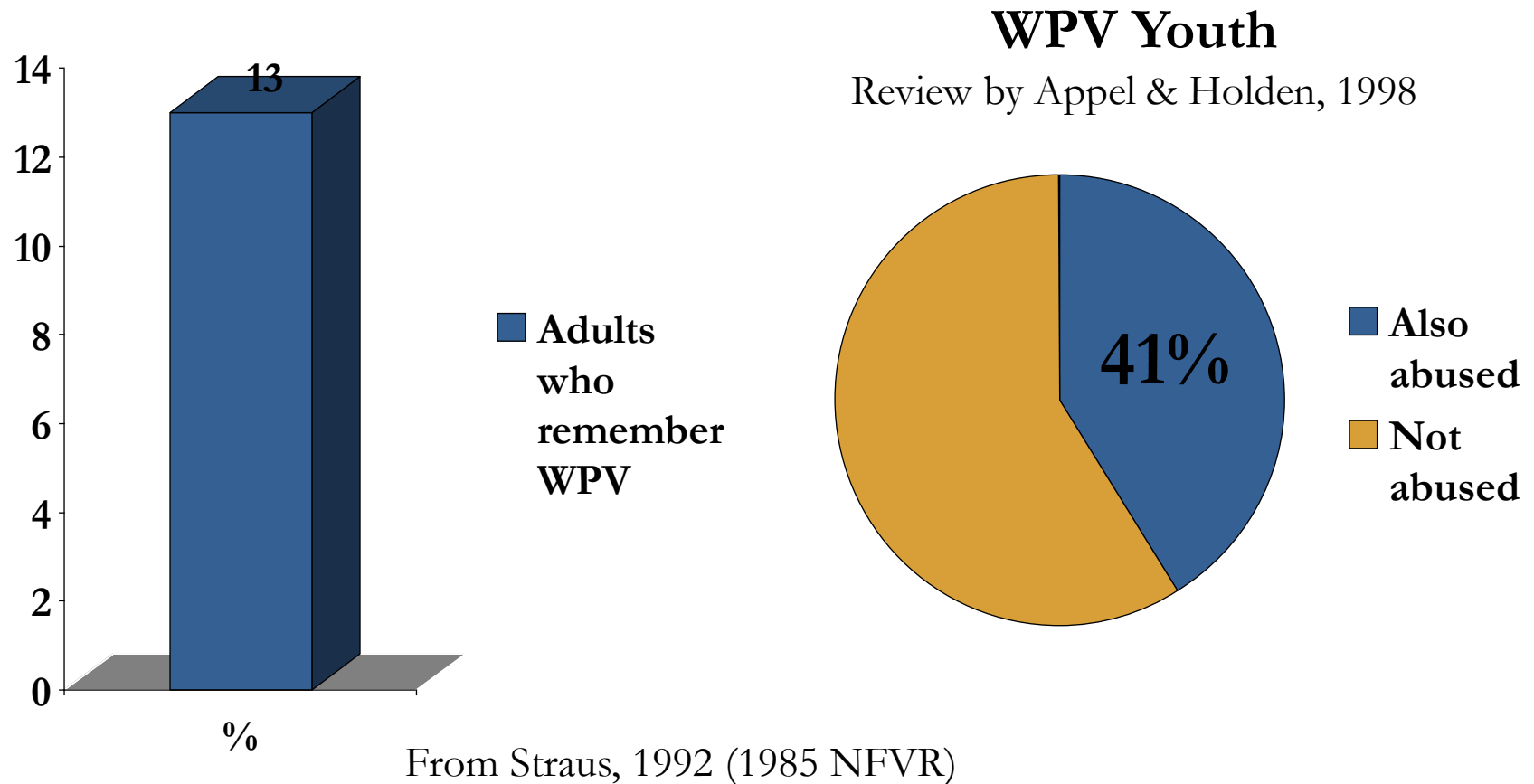


Nearly 1 in 4 women reports experiencing DV In her lifetime.

Women = 84% of spouse abuse victims
Aprox. $\frac{3}{4}$ of people who perpetrate IPV are male

*Futureswithoutviolence.org

Witnessing Partner Violence (WPV): Common & co-occurs w/ child abuse



from **Key Findings from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence and Implications for Assessment**, Sherry Hamblin, Sewanee, University of the South. Used with permission.

Polyvictimization and WPV – Odds ratios

Physical abuse: 4.99 lifetime, 4.41 past year

Psychological abuse: 4.32 lifetime, 3.48 past year

Sex abuse by known adult: 5.8 lifetime, 6.13 past year

Neglect: 6.17 lifetime, 9.06 past year

Custodial interference: 9.15 lifetime, 8.83 past year



The Cost of WPV

The Massachusetts Department of Youth Services found that children growing up in violent homes had a:

six times higher
likelihood of
attempting
suicide

24% greater
chance of
committing sexual
assault crimes

74% increased
incidence of
committing crimes
against the person

50% higher chance
of abusing drugs
and/or alcohol

http://judgehyman.com/downloads/why_juvenile_courts_must_address.pdf

27% of children 14-17 report
witnessing domestic violence in the
their lifetime (since birth).

6.6% in the past year.

(National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence, 2009)



How can we *work together* to improve *YOUR* community?



“Early childhood trauma, particularly abuse and neglect, is common among gang-involved youth.”

NCTSN

http://www.nctsnet.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/Trauma_and_gang_involved_youth.pdf



Safe Parents May Not Know or Report Depth of Child Exposure to DV



(Johnson et al 2002)

Why does this
discrepancy exist?

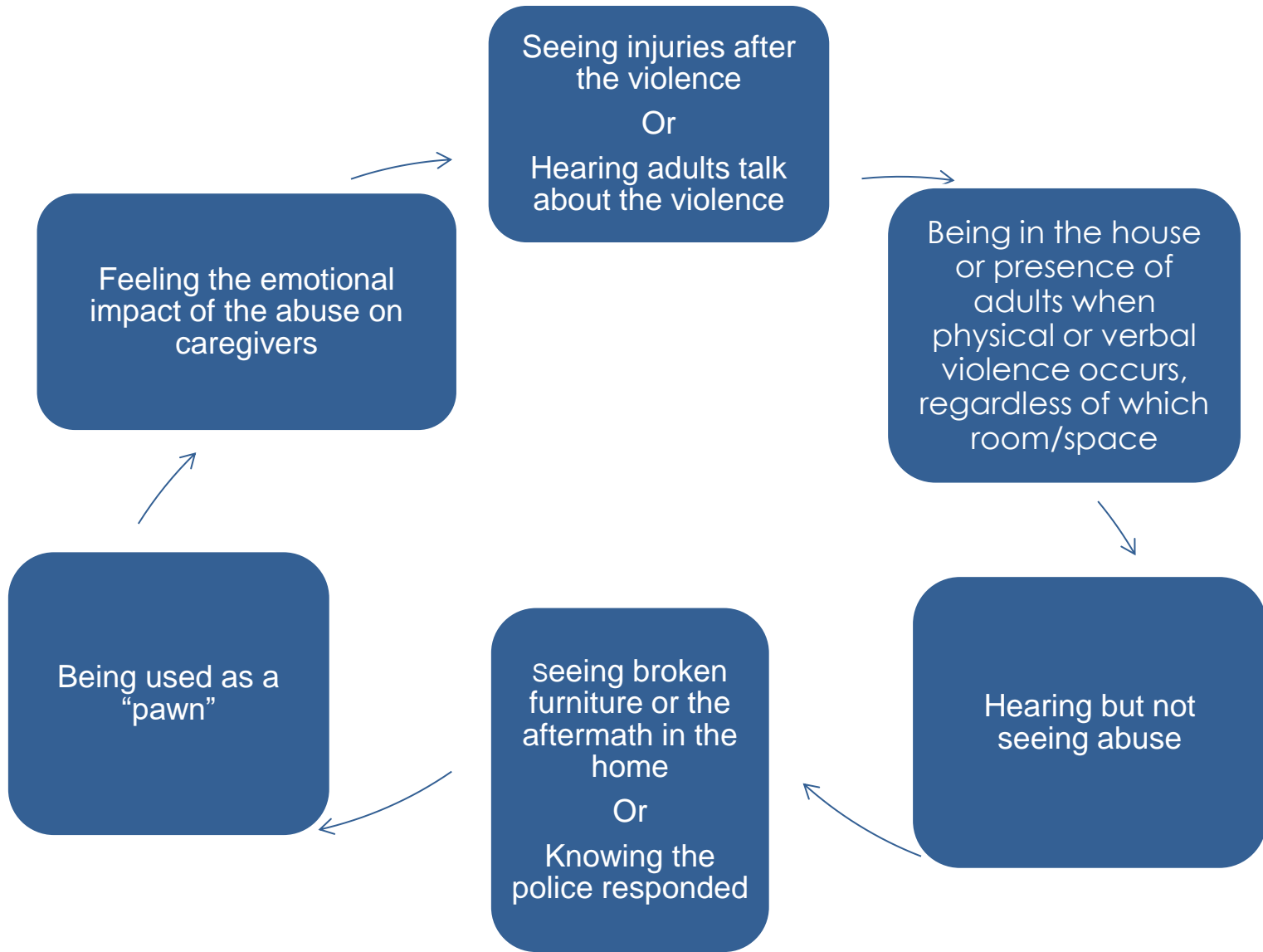




Child witnessing of domestic violence Vs. Child exposure to domestic violence



“Exposure” Includes:



HOW BATTERERS AFFECT FAMILY DYNAMICS

FOSTERING DISRESPECT FOR SURVIVOR AND HER PARENTING AUTHORITY

Deliberate Tactics

- interferes with mother's attempts to create structure; contradicts her rules; rewards child's disrespectful behavior to mother; ridicules mother; portrays her as incompetent in front of child.

Effects of abuse on survivor as parent

- children see their mother as helpless, downtrodden, or stupid. They may acquire the abuser's view of the woman as unworthy of respect and some will see her as a legitimate target of abuse.

After separation

- vies for child's loyalty by making his home a fun place with no rules; permits activities disapproved of by mother; may alienate child from mother; may use child to send violent or manipulative messages to mother; may seek custody as vengeance.

Effects of Power and Control on Survivor

May believe she is an inadequate parent

Children may lose respect for her and treat her poorly

She may come to believe the excuses the abuser provides for his behavior

May change her parenting style as a response to abuse

Her capacity to manage can be overwhelmed

May rely on survival strategies with negative impact

She may have poor health outcomes due to stress

Attachment relationship between child(ren) and safe parent may be disrupted

Feelings of shame & blame



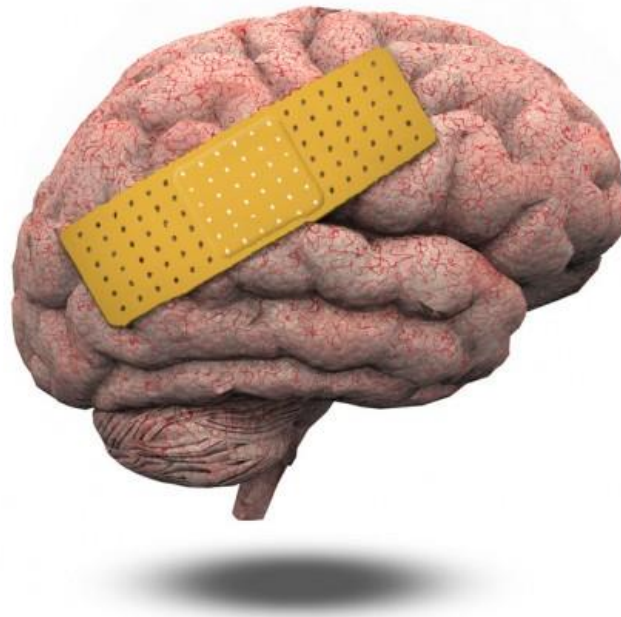
...And yet

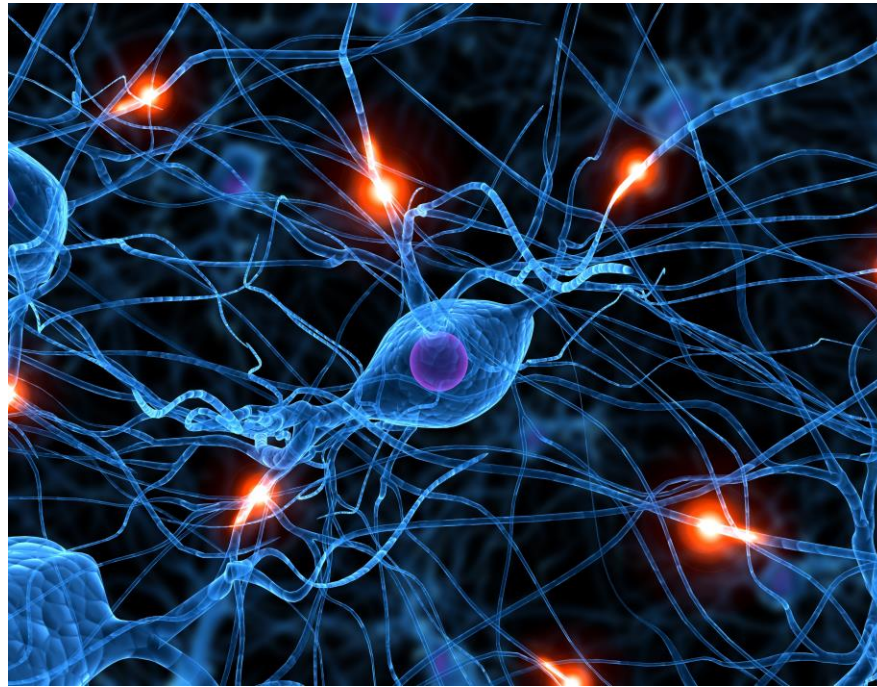
We know that many children and their safe parent are capable of recovering and thriving.



What factors contribute to this type of resiliency?

Impact on Brain Development





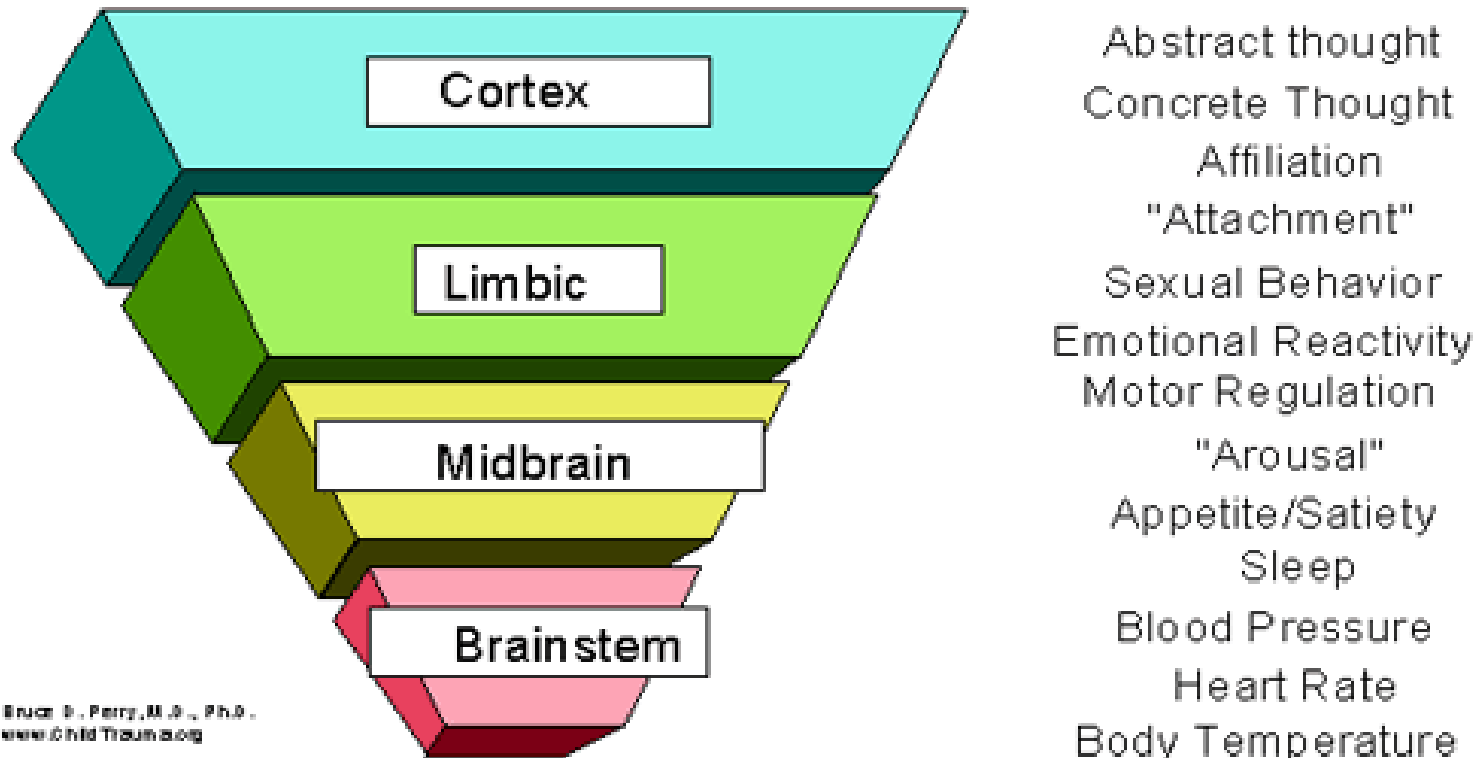
“Neurons that fire together, wire together.”

Neural connections are use dependent (“pruning”), with windows of increased elasticity throughout development.



The Developing Brain

Exhibit 1



Brain develops from
the bottom up.

Image by Dr. Bruce Perry, M.D. www.childtrauma.org, used with permission

Brain development is like constructing a building. You can always remodel and add-on, but the foundation must be strong.



As the brain develops upward and outward, emotional regulation skills become more complex, IF we have learned basic emotion regulation.

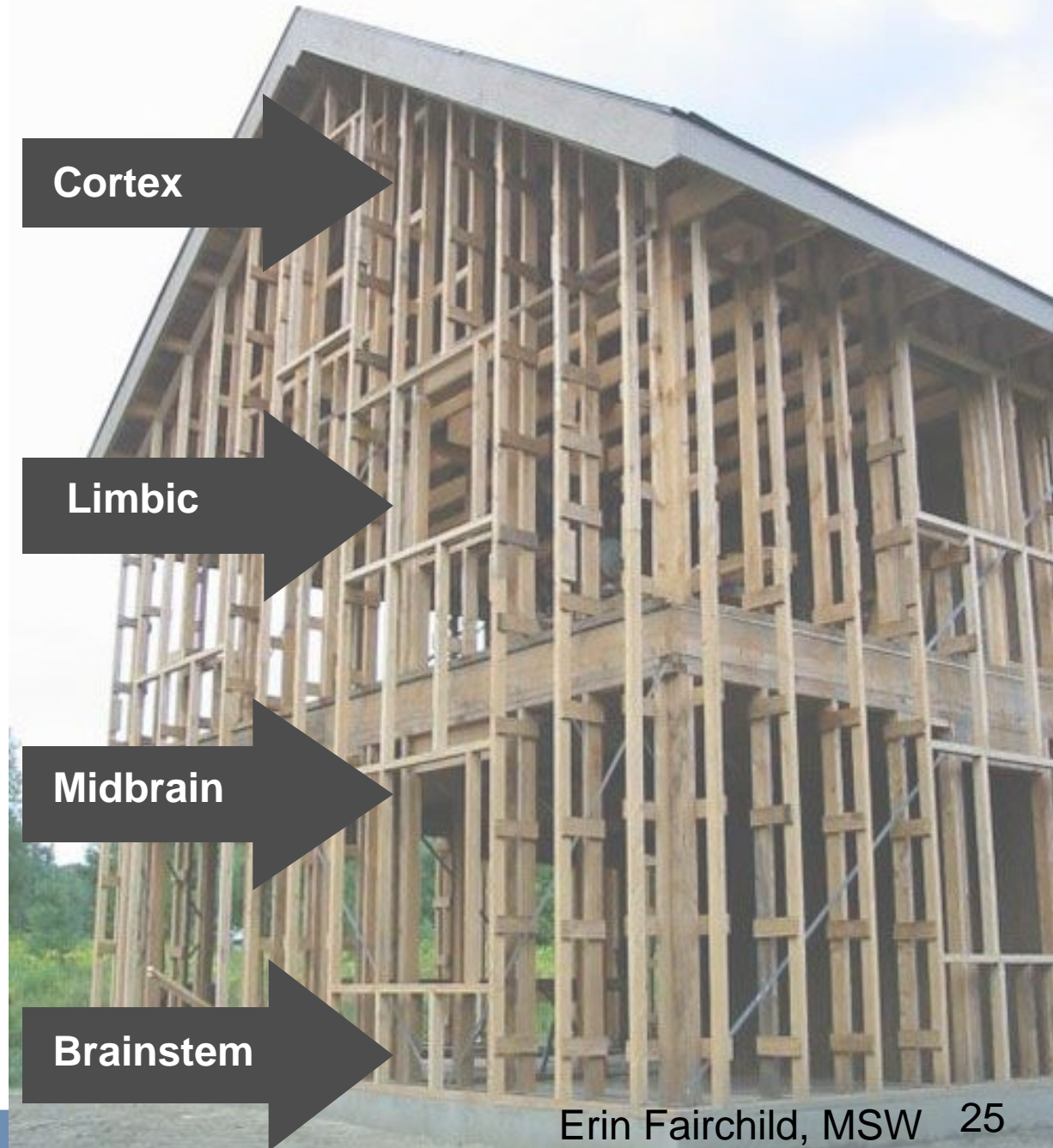
Basic emotional regulation happens here, & is developed by our experience.

Cortex

Limbic

Midbrain

Brainstem



Abstract thought
Concrete thought
Affiliation

Attachment
Sexual behavior
Emotional reactivity
Motor regulation

Arousal
Appetite
Sleep

Blood pressure
Heart rate
Body temperature

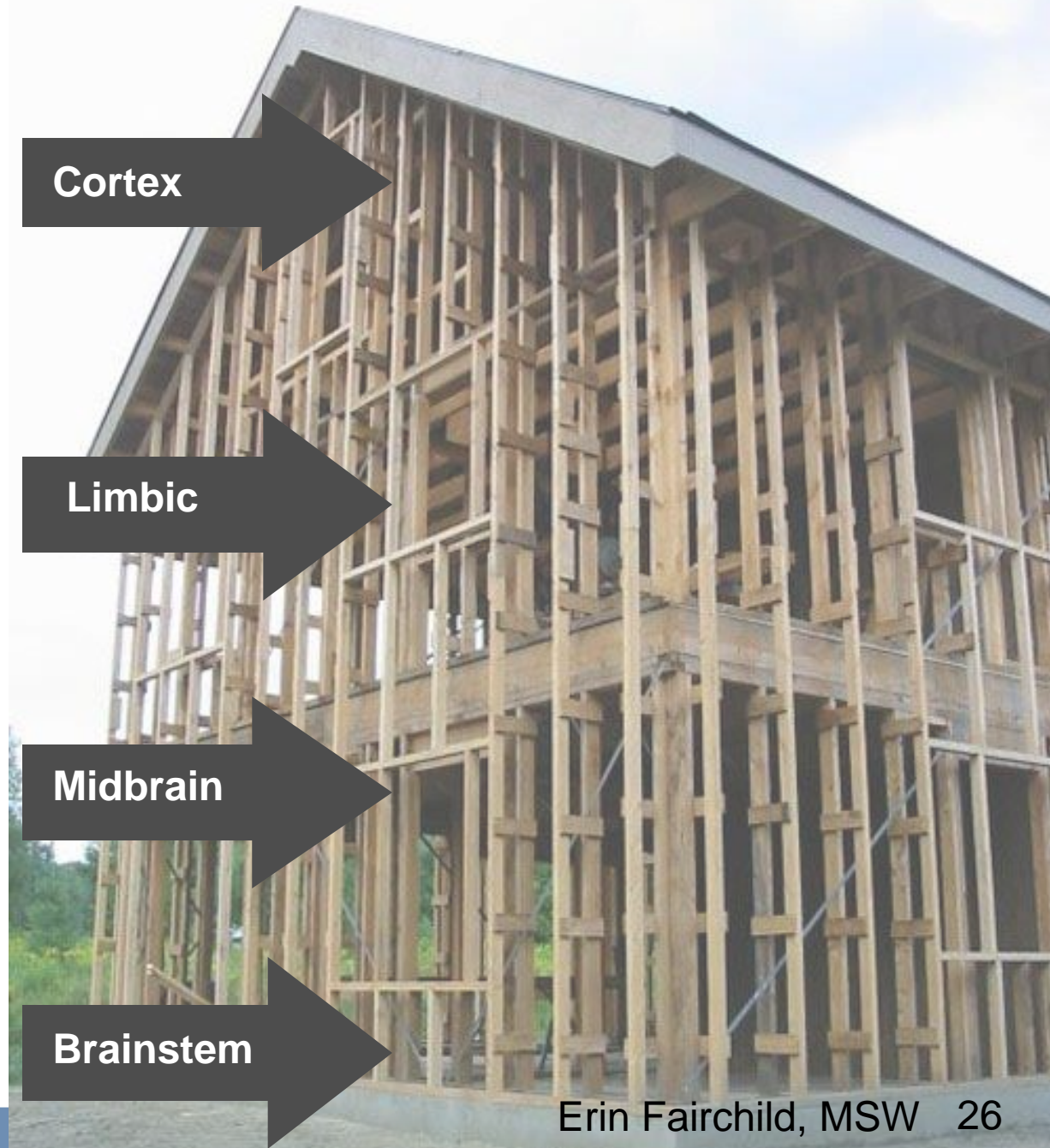
-Dr. Bruce Perry

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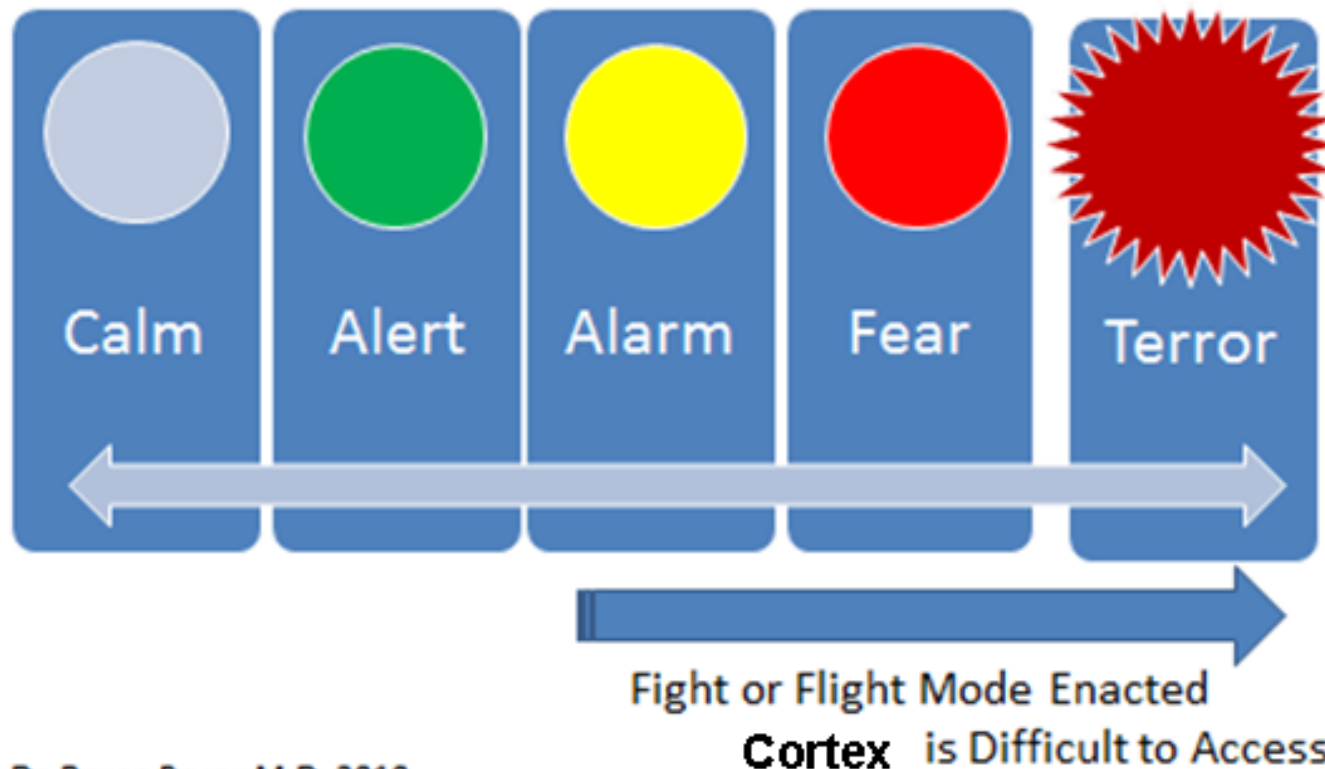


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Brain States



Dr. Bruce Perry M.D. 2010

Image by Dr. Bruce Perry, M.D. Used with permission

Safe Caregivers Matter

To support children exposed, the most effective interventions focus on promoting the safe parent-child relationship

. <http://promising.futureswithoutviolence.org/interventions-for-children/find-a-program->

Child Parent
Psychotherapy

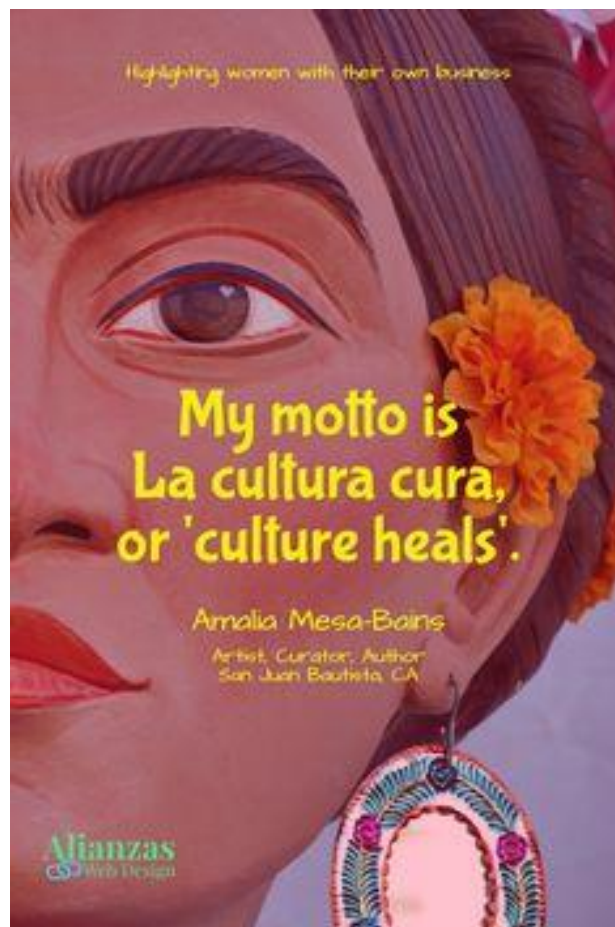
Parent – Child Interaction
Therapy

Trauma Focused CBT
(with parent involvement)

Key Elements of Healing

Safety ♥ Close relationship with non-offending parent ♥ Good relationship with siblings ♥ Good information about the abuse ♥ Connection to loved ones, culture, community, something larger ♥ Opportunity to express and release emotions with increased feeling word vocabulary ♥ Adults to acknowledge that abuse happened and it's not okay ♥ Opportunities to master SEL ♥ Relationships with safe adults

Culture heals.



Love heals.



STUDY AFTER STUDY

- *A positive attachment relationship with the non-offending parent is a primary factor in healing and recovery for children
- *The child needs to be safe and free from violence exposure to make most dynamic recovery
- *Trauma impacted brains can heal and rewire for growth...when stress is reduced

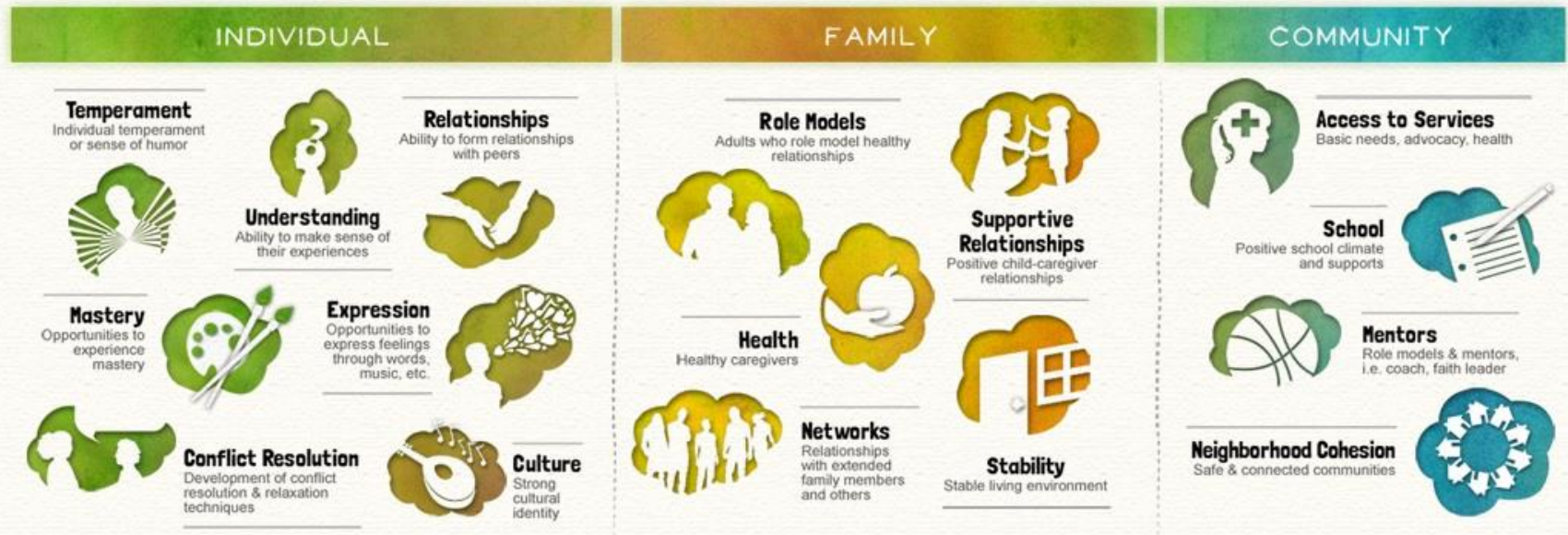
PROMISING FUTURES PROMOTING RESILIENCY

among children and youth experiencing domestic violence

Almost 30 million American children will be exposed to family violence by the time they are 17 years old.^[1] Kids who are exposed to violence are affected in different ways and not all are traumatized or permanently harmed. Protective factors can promote resiliency, help children and youth heal, and support prevention efforts.

Research indicates that the #1 protective factor in helping children heal from the experience is the presence of a consistent, supportive, and loving adult—most often their mother.^[1]

PROTECTIVE FACTORS THAT PROMOTE RESILIENCY



Get started at www.PromisingFuturesWithoutViolence.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE)

National Dating Abuse Helpline: 1-866-331-9474 or text "loveis" to 77054

Promising Futures: Best Practices for Serving Children, Youth & Parents is a project of Futures Without Violence

**FUTURES
WITHOUT VIOLENCE**

Formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund

The development of this infographic was supported by Grant Number 90EVD01 from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [1] Masten, A. S. (2005). Promoting resilience in development: A general framework for systems of care. In R. J. Flynn, et al. (Eds.), *Promoting resilience in child welfare* (3-17). Ottawa: Univ. of Ottawa Press. [2] Hamby, S., Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & O'Leary, R. (2011). Children's exposure to intimate partner violence and other family violence (pgs. 5-12). *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* – NCJ 232272. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

Post Traumatic Growth

- A strong sense of self, “I’m a survivor; I am strong.”
- A sense of achievement for overcoming adversity
- A compassionate connection to others, to self, to culture
- A commitment to bettering the lives of other children, being a safe adult
- Dedication to passions that serve to protect them (music, sports, drama, academics, church, nature, art, etc.)
- A sense of belonging and recognition that they are cared for, that others helped them recover
- Enlightenment and personal growth that comes with healing
- Resilient responses that prevent developmental impacts

**“Some people see scars, and it is wounding
they remember. To me, they are proof of
the fact that there is healing.”**

Linda Hogan



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