



HOMELESS TRAINING INSTITUTE

UNATTENDED CHILDREN



How to talk to parents about their children's behavior

EMPATHY

PARENTING IS HARD UNDER IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES

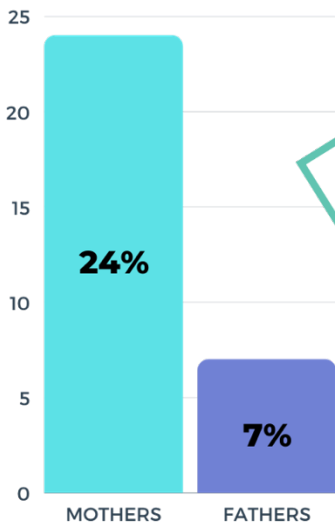
Parents who leave their children unattended are more likely to suffer from a mental illness.

single parents are more likely to leave their children unattended.

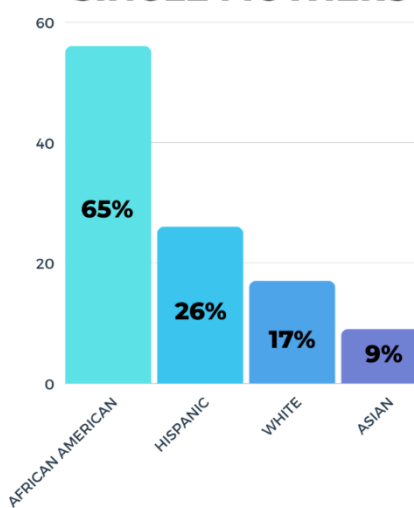
... which has gender and racial justice elements.

MANY SITUATIONS ARE NOT IDEAL

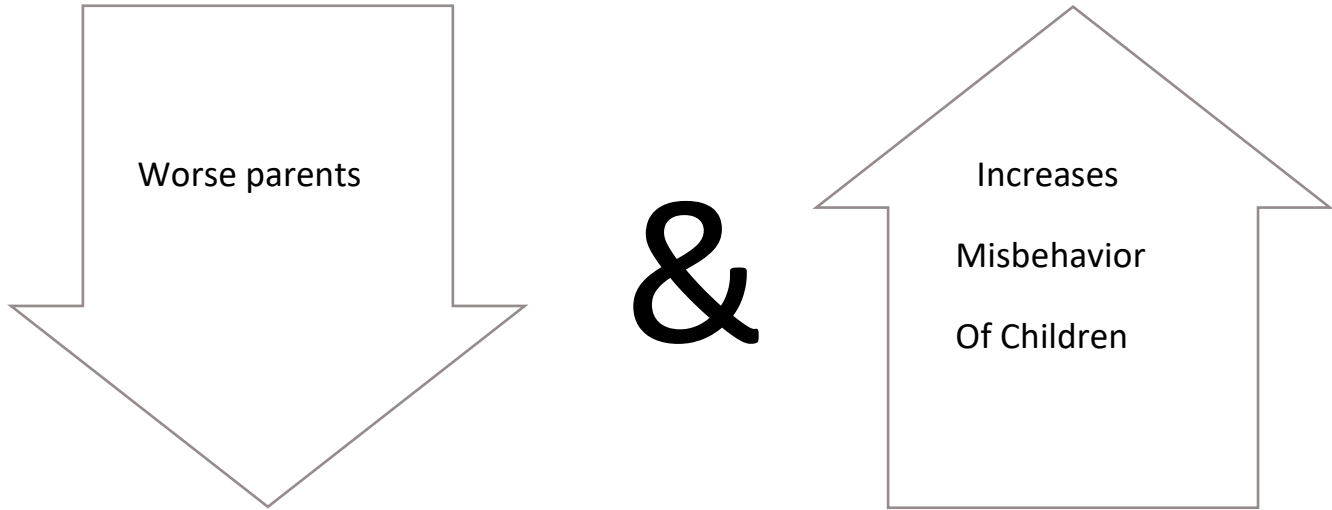
SINGLE PARENTHOOD



SINGLE MOTHERS



Basically, **POVERTY** makes people



POVERTY AND PARENTING



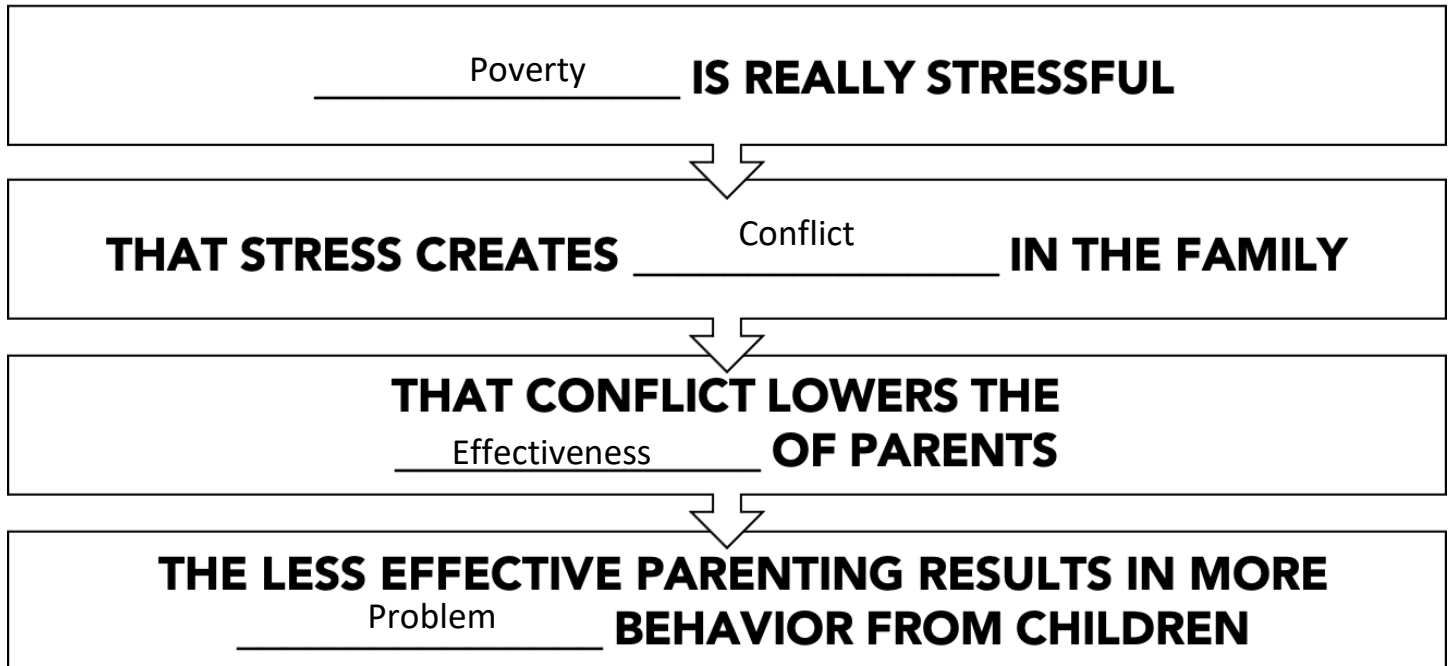
It all started with these two guys, Rand D. Conger and Glen H. Elder.

They are university professors and _____ poverty _____ researchers.

They developed a theory called the “ _____ family _____
_____ stress _____ _____ model _____.”

It has been validated over and over again in different contexts all around the world.

Here is an oversimplification of it:



But wait... it gets worse!

There was a research study that looked at new mothers and their _____ brain's _____ response to their infant crying.

_____ low-income _____ mothers had less response in their:

- 👉 _____ Medial _____ Prefrontal Gyrus
- 👉 _____ Middle _____ Prefrontal Gyrus &
- 👉 _____ Superior _____ Temporal Gyrus

and even worse...

New mothers undergo drastic changes in levels of several hormones, including _____ Oxytocin _____ and _____ Cortisol _____. These changes help people _____ adjust _____ to parenthood.

Chronic stress from _____ poverty _____ messes with cortisol and oxytocin.

If you took our Homelessness 201 training, you recall that _____ poverty _____ lowers mental bandwidth, which effects parenting...

_____ Parenting _____ is hard. Parenting while poor is _____ really _____ hard.

Have a little _____ compassion _____.

GOOD PARENTING IS A CULTURAL CONSTRUCT

“Good parenting” is a construct created by a culture.

Even in the United States, there has been a shift in the last 40 years to more “_____ hands _____ -on” and “_____ fear _____ -based” parenting.

Some of this was caused by increased media coverage of _____ child _____ abductions _____.

... even though, statistically, the odds of your child being abducted by a stranger are .000007%, which is “effectively zero.”

And different cultures parent differently. Researchers define three different parenting style:

 _____ Permissive _____  _____ Authoritative _____  _____ Authoritarian _____

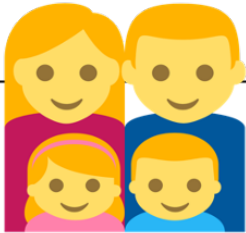
don't enforce rules, 'kids will be kids'

create positive relationship, enforce rules

focus on obedience, punishment over discipline

Early research thought that Authoritative was best because early studies only used white families.

Later research discovered that white children do best with **AUTHORITATIVE** parenting, but black and Asian children do best with **AUTHORITARIAN**.



Parenting is hard



Parenting while mentally ill, a single parent or poor is REALLY hard.



Your definition of "good" parenting is not universally true.

SO... have a little compassion for parents.

But...

Having compassion is not the same thing as "anything goes"...

TOOLS

Many of the trainings we do have very specific approaches. In most ways, this is standard
_____empathy_____ -driven enforcement.

So use everything from the core training. *That said, there are _____two_____ areas that are especially important so we'll dig into them more deeply.*



TALKING TO PARENTS

ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR

USE ALL OF EMPATHY-DRIVEN ENFORCEMENT™, BUT TWO TOOLS ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT:

DON'T JUDGE



REMEMBER THAT PARENTING IS REALLY FREAKIN' HARD
(and "parenting while poor" is extra extra freakin' hard).



AVOID OPINIONS OR ADVICE



FOCUS ON FUTURE BEHAVIOR



STICK TO THE FACTS ABOUT BEHAVIOR (NOT about their parenting)

LISTEN



FOCUS ON YOUR BODY LANGUAGE

- Eye contact
- Open body language
- Friendly facial expression



ACTIVELY LISTEN

Do not interrupt or formulate your response while the person is talking.



"ATTENDING SKILLS"

Nodding or an occasional "uh huh"



ASK TWO TYPES OF QUESTIONS

- Open-ended questions
- Active listening questions ("If I understand you correctly...")