The Healthy Mental Development Framework

American Academy of Pediatrics (DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Housekeeping

 \checkmark All participants will be muted during the presentation.

 \checkmark Please submit your questions to the chat feature.

 \checkmark We will send a brief feedback survey after the presentation.

Please note: This webinar will be recorded and sent to registrants and posted on AAP.org.



Presenters

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Executive Committee Member AAP Council on Healthy Mental and Emotional Development

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Disclosures

My husband owns stock in Pfizer. I have no other financial relationships or COIs to resolve.

- Joan Jeung

I have no financial relationships to disclose or COIs to resolve. - Julie Gorzkowski Hamilton



Learning Objectives

At the end of this presentation, attendees will be able to:

- Articulate priorities and trends in pediatric mental and relational health
- Describe the concepts of Healthy Mental Development and Relational Health
- Understand AAP efforts to address Healthy Mental Development



Mental Health of Children & Adolescents: A Landscape

Joan Jeung, MD, MPH, FAAP





Mental Health Developmental Continuum



American Academy of Pediatrics



Spectrum of Pediatric Mental Health Concerns, Problems & Disorders

- Presentation in pediatric practices (primary care and specialty)
 - 19% of children and adolescents in the U.S. have impaired MH functioning and do not meet criteria for a disorder¹
 - 13% of school-aged & 10% of preschool children with normal functioning have parents with "concerns"¹
 - About 20% of children and adolescents experience a MH disorder each year²
- The need for integration of mental health competencies in pediatric practice (Pediatrics, 2019)
 - Suicide is a leading cause of death in 10-24 year-olds¹
 - Living in a home with a gun raises risk of youth suicide $4X^3$
 - Adults who had a childhood MH disorder -6x the odds of adverse adult outcomes (health, legal, financial, social)¹
 - Adults who had impaired functioning in childhood -3x the odds of adverse adult outcomes¹
 - 50% of adults in U.S. with MH disorders had symptoms by the age of 14 years⁴

^{4.} Bitsko RH, Claussen AH, Lichstein J, et al. Mental health surveillance among children — United States, 2013–2019. MMWR Suppl. 2022;71(Suppl-2):1–42. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.su7102a1



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^{1.} Foy JM, Green CM, Earls MF; Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child And Family Health, Mental Health Leadership Work Group. Mental Health Competencies for Pediatric Practice. Pediatrics. 2019;144(5):e20192757. doi:10.1542/peds.2019-2757

^{2.} O'Connell ME, Boat T, Warner KE, eds. Preventing Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Disorders Among Young People: Progress and Possibilities. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2009.

^{3.} Swanson SA, Eyllon M, Sheu YH, Miller M. Firearm access and adolescent suicide risk: toward a clearer understanding of effect size [2020 May 14]. Inj Prev. 2020;27(3):264-270. doi:10.1136/injuryprev-2019-043605

Impact of the Pandemic

• Exacerbates pre-existing disparities

- morbidity and mortality
- access to health care
- quality education
- affordable housing
- digital access
- Highlights the impact of structural racism

• Factors affecting children and adolescents

- disruption of childcare/school
- social isolation
- loss of peer interactions
- loss and grief
- parental/caregiver stress and wellbeing
- 1 in 4 with depressive symptoms⁵
- 1 in 5 with anxiety⁵

5. Racine N, McArthur BA, Cooke JE, Eirich R, Zhu J, Madigan S. Global prevalence of depressive and anxiety symptoms in children and adolescents during COVID-19: A meta-analysis. JAMA Pediatr. 2021 Nov 1;175(11):1142-1150. doi: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2021.2482. PMID: 34369987; PMCID: PMC8353576



Impact of the Pandemic

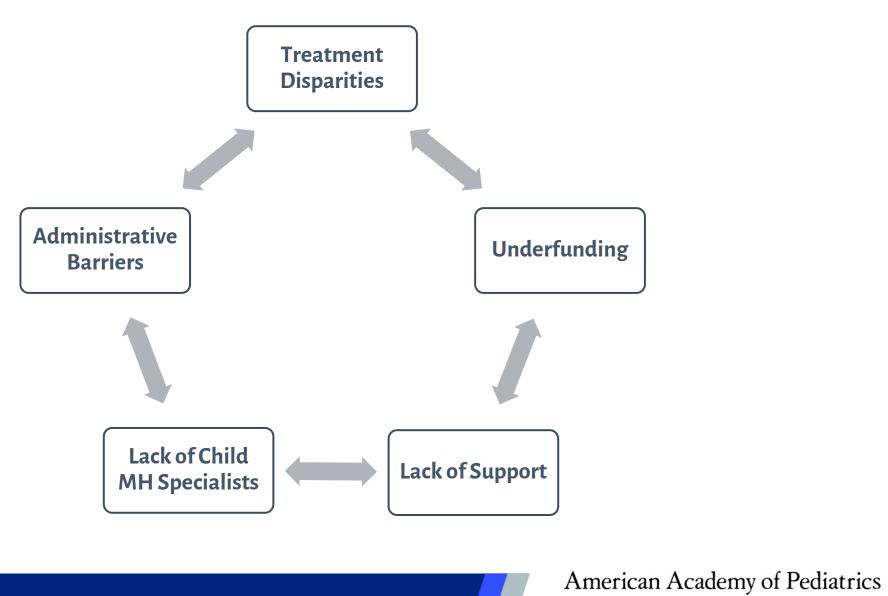
- National Survey of Parents of Children ages 0-18 years⁶
 - 27% worsening mental health for themselves
 - 14% worsening behavioral health for their children
 - 24% loss of childcare
 - Increase in food insecurity; Loss of employer-sponsored insurance coverage for children
- Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey⁷
 - 37% high school students experienced poor mental health during the pandemic
 - 44% felt persistently sad or hopeless
 - **20%** had seriously considered suicide
 - 36% reported being treated badly/unfairly in school due to race or ethnicity
 - Significant disparities in mental health outcomes by gender and LGBTQ+ identity
 - Impacts on family economic status, food insecurity, and abuse in the home

Jones SE, Ethier KA, Hertz M, et al. Mental Health, Suicidality, and Connectedness Among High School Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic — Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey, United States, January–June 2021. MMWR Suppl 2022;71(Suppl-3):16–21. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.su7103a3.



^{6.} Patrick SW, Henkhaus LE, Zickafoose JS, et al. Well-being of parents and children during the COVID-19 pandemic: A national survey. Pediatrics. 2020;146(4):e2020016824. doi:10.1542/peds.2020-016824

Service Gaps & Workforce Issues





Impact of the Pandemic

- Emergency Department visits for mental health emergencies⁸
 - 24% increase for children ages 5-11 years
 - **31%** increase for adolescents ages 12-17 years
- 50% increase in suspected suicide attempts (ED visits) amongst girls 12-17 years in early 2021 vs. 2019⁹
- **140,000 U.S. children** have experienced the death of primary or secondary caregiver; children of color disproportionately impacted¹⁰
- Leeb RT, Bitsko RH, Radhakrishnan L, Martinez P, Njai R, Holland KM. Mental health-related emergency department visits among children aged <18 years during the COVID-19 pandemic United States, January 1–October 17, 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2020;69:1675–1680.
- 9. Yard E, Radhakrishnan L, Ballesteros MF, et al. Emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts among persons aged 12–25 years before and during the COVID-19 pandemic United States, January 2019–May 2021. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2021;70:888–894.
- 10. Hillis SD, Blenkinsop A, Villaveces A, et al. COVID-19-associated orphanhood and caregiver death in the United States. Pediatrics. Published online October 7, 2021:e2021053760. doi:10.1542/peds.2021-053760



October 19, 2021

AAP-AACAP-CHA Declaration of a National Emergency in Child and Adolescent Mental Health

Home / Advocacy / Child and Adolescent Healthy Mental Development / AAP-AACAP-CHA Declaration of a National Emergency in Child and Adolescent Mental Health

- "Soaring rates of mental health challenges...over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating the situation that existed prior to the pandemic."
- "Children and families have experienced enormous adversity and disruption."
- "The inequities that result from structural racism have contributed to disproportionate impacts on children from communities of color."

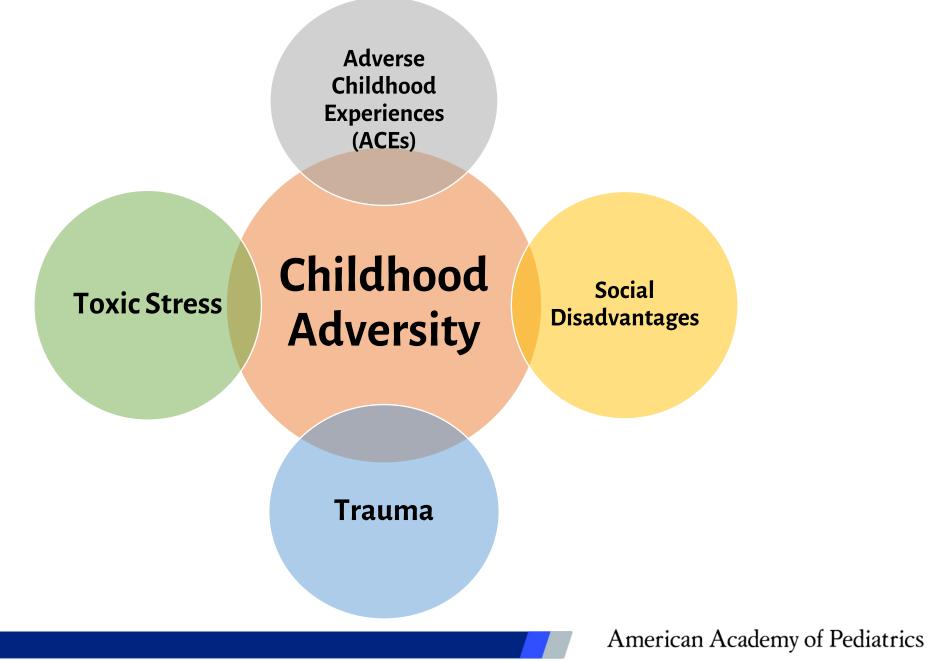
Source: <u>https://www.aap.org/en/advocacy/child-and-adolescent-healthy-mental-development/aap-aacap-cha-declaration-of-a-national-emergency-in-child-and-adolescent-mental-health/</u>



The "Big Picture" - Many Factors Influence Healthy Mental & Emotional Development

Biology/Genetics Community Childhood Experiences, **Positive Strengths** Trauma, & Stress & Supports **Environment Social Relationships** Family American Academy of Pediatrics







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It's not about summing the suffering, but... **Building the Buffering!**

Source: aap.org/en/patient-care/trauma-informed-care/

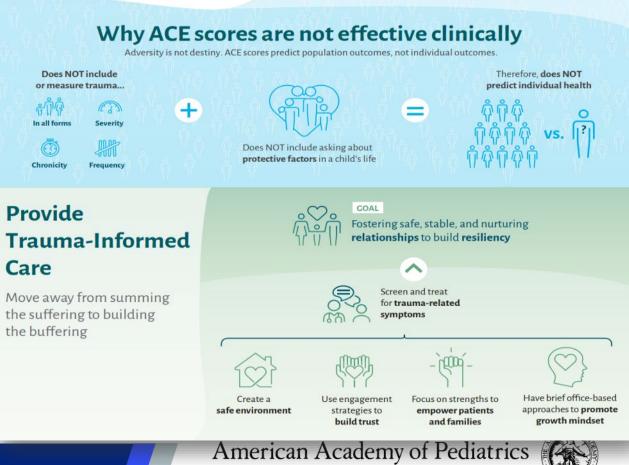
Moving beyond **ACE** scores

What is an ACE score? An ACE score is a tally of specific childhood traumatic events that an individual has experienced.

What do ACE scores tell you?

Higher ACE scores are associated with poor health outcomes at the population level.





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Relational Health

Mental health of children/adolescents and their caregivers are inherently linked

Family relationships promote resilience and positive mental outcomes for both maternal caregivers and children

Relationships should be:

- **Safe:** free of physical or psychological harm
- Stable: adult is dependably there for the child
- **Nurturing:** child's physical, emotional, and developmental needs are sensitively and consistently met



Safe, stable, nurturing relationships buffer child adversity when it occurs and promote future resilience



Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)

- PCEs score included 7 items asking respondents to report how often or how much as a child they:
 - 1. Felt able to talk to their family about feelings;
 - 2. Felt their family stood by them during difficult times;
 - 3. Enjoyed participating in community traditions;
 - 4. Felt a sense of belonging in high school (not including those who did not attend school or were home schooled);
 - 5. Felt supported by friends;
 - 6. Had at least 2 nonparent adults who took genuine interest in them; and
 - 7. Felt safe and protected by an adult in their home.¹¹

11. Bethell C, Jones J, Gombojav N, Linkenbach J, Sege R. Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Mental and Relational Health in a Statewide Sample: Associations Across Adverse Childhood Experiences Levels [published correction appears in JAMA Pediatr Sep 30;:]. JAMA Pediatr. 2019;173(11):e193007. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2019.3007



Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)

Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Mental and Relational Health in a Statewide Sample: Associations Across Adverse Childhood Experiences Levels

Christina Bethell ¹, Jennifer Jones ², Narangerel Gombojav ¹, Jeff Linkenbach ³, Robert Sege ⁴

"Study results demonstrate that PCEs show a **dose-response association** with adult mental and relational health, analogous to the cumulative effects of multiple ACEs. Findings suggest that PCEs may have **lifelong consequences** for mental and relational health despite co-occurring adversities such as ACEs."¹¹

> **"Assessing** and proactively **promoting PCEs** may reduce adult mental and relational health problems, even in the concurrent presence of ACEs."¹¹





Healthy Mental Development Framework

Julie Gorzkowski Hamilton, MSW, LSW



Healthy Mental Development (HMD)

- HMD is a **strengths-based** framework.
- HMD promotes **social-emotional, behavioral and psychological wellness** across the lifespan.
- HMD uses a **relational health** and **trauma-informed care** lens.
- HMD is a key component of **infant, child, adolescent, and family** health.



Healthy Mental Development (HMD)

- HMD reframes the way that we think and talk about mental health.
- Mental health is not only a diagnosis or an illness to be treated but is a developmental process that occurs across the lifespan = Healthy Mental Development.
- HMD raises up and promotes the **importance of relationships in** healthy mental, emotional and behavioral development.



Key Concepts



Healthy Mental Development

- Promotion of emotional, psychological, and social wellness across the lifespan
- Determined by complex interactions between biology, relationships, and environment
- Mental health is not a series of diagnoses and symptoms: it's a developmental process



Relational Health

- Development and maintenance of safe, stable, nurturing relationships
- Important from infancy through young adulthood (and beyond!)
- Mental health of children and caregivers are inherently linked
- Family relationships promote resilience and positive mental outcomes for children and caregivers

Trauma-Informed Care



- Comprehensive care to assess, recognize, respond to the effects of trauma (not just counting ACES)
- Builds on relational health to mitigate effects and promote resilience
- Practical strategies to engage families, build resilience, address attachment, and assure safety
- Trauma-informed care is relational health care: trauma is not a diagnosis



Healthy Mental Development & AAP







American Academy of Pediatrics

The mission of the American Academy of Pediatrics is to **attain optimal physical**, **mental, and social health and well-being** for all infants, children, adolescents and young adults.







Fostering Healthy Mental Development in Youth and Families

Key Priorities to our Current Work:

- 1. Launch a rapid response effort focused on suicide prevention and other mental health emergencies currently impacting children and adolescents.
- 2. Build pediatric primary care capacity, supportive care systems, and cross-sectoral partnerships to better address healthy mental development, relational health, trauma, and the full spectrum of mental health needs in pediatric primary care, subspecialty care, and community settings.
- 3. Lay the foundation for long-term practice, payment, and systems transformation to support the relational health and healthy mental development of children, adolescents, and families in pediatric care settings and communities.



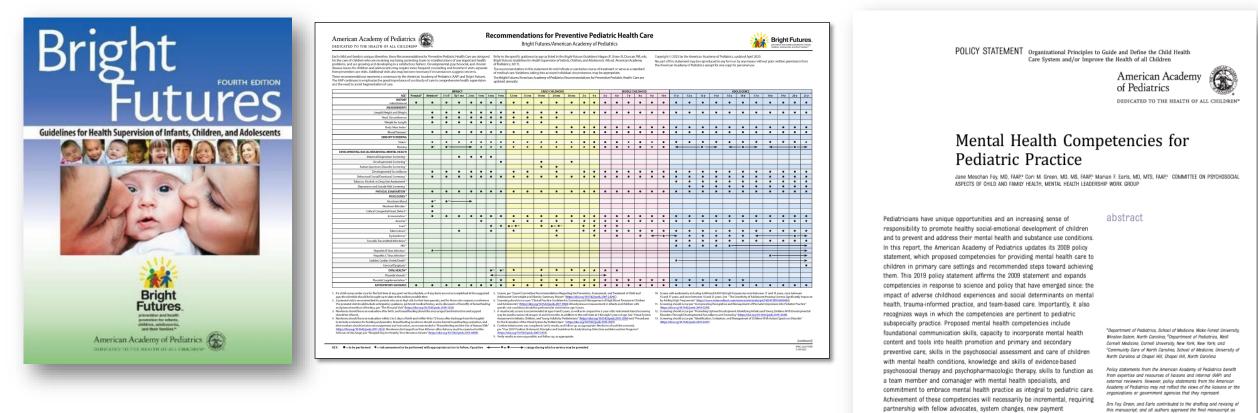
"Pediatric Primary Care Advantage"

Pediatric primary care professionals (PCPs) are *uniquely positioned* to play a central role in promoting healthy mental development:

- Develop a longitudinal therapeutic relationship
- View health from a developmental perspective
- Can identify immediate MH concerns, intervene early
- Promote supportive parenting behaviors
- Foster safe, stable, nurturing relationships
- Serve as a trusted source of information and support for families



AAP Recommendations for Pediatric Visits



Addressing Social Health and Early Childhood Wellness Initiative (ASHEW)

Home / Patient Care / Early Childhood / Early Relational Health / Addressing Social Health and Early Childhood Wellness Initiative (ASHEW)

American Academy of Pediatrics

mechanisms, practice enhancements, and decision support for pediatricians

in their expanded scope of practice

submitted

The guidance in this statement does not indicate an evolusive cours

AAP Policy: Supporting Pediatric Primary Care Professionals in HMD

- Trauma-Informed Care
- Preventing Toxic Stress
- Early Relational Health
- Substance Use
- Impact of Racism on Child and Adolescent Health
- Mental Health Competencies for Pediatric Practice
- And more...

www.aap.org/mentalhealth





AAP Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention

- Educational resource
- Clinicians, public health professionals, educators, advocates
- Strategies to support youth via:
 - Clinical pathways
 - Community partnerships
 - Policy and advocacy
- Co-authored by AAP and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, in collaboration with experts from NIMH
- Endorsed by 18 medical/public health organizations
- Implementation underway:
 - Learning communities
 - AAP Chapter Ambassadors



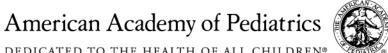


Suicide and suicidal behavior among youth and young adults is a major public health crisis. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people 10-24 years of age in the United States (US). and rates have been rising for decades.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), in collaboration with experts from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), created this Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention as an educational resource to support pediatric health clinicians and other health professionals in identifying strategies and key partnerships to support youth at risk for suicide.

Youth Suicide Prevention: A Call to Action

www.aap.org/suicideprevention



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AAP National Centers related to HMD

AAP Center of Excellence on Social Media and Youth Mental Wellbeing

- Disseminate evidence around the risks and benefits of social media use
- Build capacity to mitigate social media's impact on mental wellbeing, promote healthy use
- Advance new narrative that prioritizes and centers youth voices, looks at media use through a developmental lens, and highlights the importance of building healthy digital ecosystems for children and adolescents
- Funded by SAMHSA



Social Media and

Youth Mental Health

Foundation for a National Center for Relational Health and Trauma-Informed Care

- Building foundation for a National Center
- Increase the capacity and competency of pediatricians to provide relational health and trauma-informed care to children and families
- Y1: Building out leadership structure, framework, metrics
- Funded by CDC





HRSA – AAP Cooperative Agreement: Providing Technical Assistance on Mental Health Care, Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Programs (PMHCAs)

- Formative research to assess mental health needs & competencies among primary care professionals (PCPs)
- Technical assistance and educational resources:
 - Promoting mental and relational health in practice
 - Identifying mental health symptoms, connecting families to care
- Supporting PCPs, AAP/AAFP/NAPNAP Chapters in utilizing PMHCA programs
- Building capacity to better address mental health symptoms and needs in primary care

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$1,700,000 with no percentage financed with nongovernmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the US Government.



Pediatric Mental Health Care Access (PMHCA) Program

- Promotes behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care by supporting the development of mental health care telehealth access programs
- Provides training & education on the use of evidenced-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate telehealth protocols
- Serves as a resource for pediatric primary care professionals (PCPs) and other health care professionals serving children and adolescents



Patients & Families

Mental & Behavioral Health Professionals

National Network of Child Psychiatry Access Programs



AAP PMHCA Programs Cooperative Agreement AAP, AAFP & NAPNAP **Chapter Funding Awardees**

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AAP Chapter Awardees

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Alabama AAP Chapter

Arizona AAP Chapter

Arkansas AAP Chapter

Colorado AAP Chapter*

Florida AAP Chapter

Hawaii AAP Chapter

Maine AAP Chapter

Kentucky AAP Chapter

Louisiana AAP Chapter*

Mississippi AAP Chapter

Missouri AAP Chapter

Montana AAP Chapter*

Washington AAP Chapter

North Carolina Pediatric Society

* States with AAP and AAFP awards

For more information, contact Kathy Janies, AAP Manager,

- Alaska AFP Chapter 1.
- Colorado AFP Chapter* 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- Louisiana AFP Chapter* 5.
- Montana AFP Chapter* 6.
- Virginia AFP Chapter 7.

NAPNAP Chapter Awardees

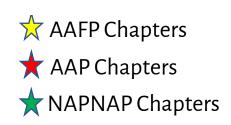
- Maryland Chesapeake NAPNAP Chapter 1.
- South Carolina NAPNAP Chapter 2.

Mental Health Initiatives kjanies@aap.org; 630-626-6875

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AAFP Chapter Awardees

- Georgia AFP Chapter
- Iowa AFP Chapter



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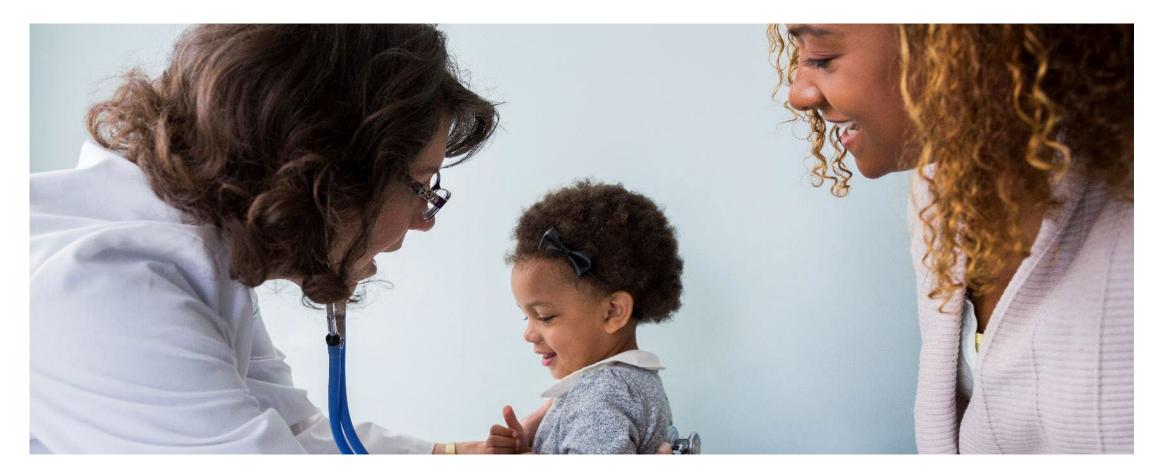
Upcoming Opportunities

- Topical webinars
- Online educational modules (eg, brief interventions; sustainability)
- Animated videos
- Topic-specific videos (eg, suicide prevention, adolescent confidentiality, AAP Mental Health algorithm)
- Best practices & Success stories
- Office hours
- Virtual learning cafes (for public health professionals)
- On-going technical assistance

Contact us with any questions or technical assistance needs: PMHCA@aap.org



Putting This Into Practice





A Few Clinical Pearls

"Connect then redirect" "Be curious not furious" "Name it to tame it"

"Catch them being good"

Undivided attention & attunement

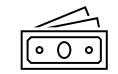
Quotes from: Daniel J Siegel, MD



Special Time/Time In

Strength-based approach to behavior management

- Scheduled and sacred (noncontingent)
- Undivided parental attention, no interruptions
- 10-15 minutes/day
- Child chooses and leads activity



Money in the bank

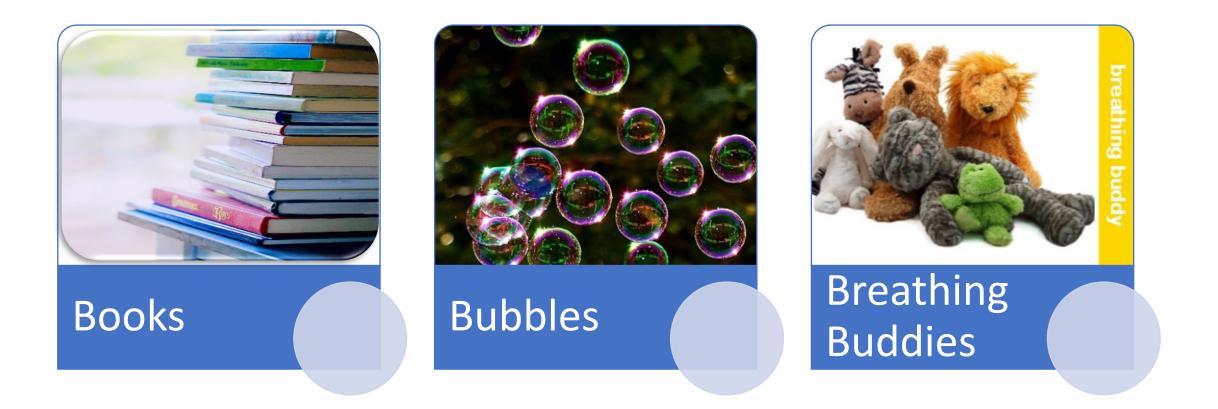


Re-establishes motivation for positive behavior

Source: Seattle Children's Primary Care Principles for Child Mental Health, Disruptive Behavior and Aggression. 2018-19.



Books, Bubbles, and Breathing Buddies





Resiliency Clinic



- Interactive group-based intervention for parents/caregivers of young children (ages 0-5 year) with a history of significant adversity.
- Groups are designed to teach mindfulness and other resiliency-promoting skills + promote stronger parent/child relationships
 - Circle of Security-Parenting videos
 - Dovetail We are Resilient- mindfulness
- Most referred by primary care professionals following positive ACEs screen





- AAP Child and Adolescent Mental and Behavioral Health Principles
- AAP Early Relational Health
- AAP Mental Health Initiatives
- AAP Mental Health Practice Tools and Resources
- AAP Pediatric Mental Health Minute Series
- AAP Trauma-Informed Care
- AAP/AFSP Blueprint for Youth Suicide Prevention
- HRSA Pediatric Mental Health Care Access
- National Network of Child Psychiatry Access Programs





- 1. Foy JM, Green CM, Earls MF; Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child And Family Health, Mental Health Leadership Work Group. Mental Health Competencies for Pediatric Practice. *Pediatrics*. 2019;144(5):e20192757. doi:10.1542/peds.2019-2757
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Discussion and Q & A



