

Protective Capacities

Microlearning on Behavioral Protective Capacities

With great appreciation to: Action Child Protection

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What is a Protective Capacity?

Definition: Personal and parenting behavioral, cognitive, and emotional characteristics that can be specifically and directly associated with a person being protective of his/her child. A protective capacity is a specific quality that can be observed, understood, and demonstrated as part of the way a parent/caregiver thinks, feels, and acts that make him/her protective.

(607-05-01-01 Glossary)

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What is a Protective Capacity?

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Behavioral Protective Capacities



History of Protecting
Takes Action
Demonstrates Impulse Control
Physically Able
Has Adequate Energy
Demonstrates Adequate Skill
Assertive as a Caregiver
Sets Own Needs Aside
Adaptive
Uses Resources to Meet Basic Needs
Supports Child



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History of Protecting

This refers to a person with many experiences and events in which they have demonstrated clear and reportable evidence of having been protective.

Examples of Enhanced

No Previous CPS history or other evidence of maltreatment.

Obtains/follows the restraining order against the abuser.



Examples of Diminished

History of confirmed maltreatment/prior involvement with child welfare agencies.

Allows child to be present when drugs are used

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Takes Action

This refers to a person who is action-orientated in all aspects of their life

Examples of Enhanced

A workers identifies an unsafe home and the parent/caregiver does something about it.

Maintains employment, pays bills on time, makes and keeps health appointment for the child.



Examples of Diminished

The child has injuries, and the parent doesn't seek medical attention.

Poor communication or follow through with criminal charges.

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Demonstrates Impulse Control

This refers to a person who is deliberate and careful; who acts in managed and self-controlled ways.

Examples of Enhanced

Accesses safety service providers to keep children safe when planning to use substances.

A person who is able to walk away when being provoked.



Examples of Diminished

Using drugs around the children or while responsible for their care.

Spends paycheck on nonessentials, leaving no money for necessities.

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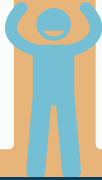
Physically Able

This refers to people who are sufficiently healthy, mobile, and strong.

Examples of Enhanced

They are able to physically respond to the child's needs.

Plays with the children (takes them to the park, plays on the floor with them, goes for walks outside, etc.).



Examples of Diminished

Is chronically ill and unable to physically care for the child.

Any mental health or physical health condition that impacts the parent/caregiver's ability to get out of the bed to ensure children's needs are met.

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Has Adequate Energy

This refers to a person that has the ability to be on the job and protective.

Examples of Enhanced

Parent who is motivated and on top of scheduling appointments with providers to meet the child's needs.

Providing routine, structure, keeping up with home duties, activities for the kids, etc.



Examples of Diminished

Parent who is depressed and doesn't have the energy to help with daily tasks for their children.

Individuals who stay on the couch all day and ignore their children.

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Demonstrates adequate skill

This refers to the possession and the use of skills that are related to being protective as a parent/caregiver.

Examples of Enhanced

Attends to a toddler when the child is eating to ensure that he/she can safely eat their food.

Obtains sufficiently warm winter clothing for the child to wear when outside.



Examples of Diminished

Parent doesn't clean child's feeding tube, and the child gets an infection.

Parent doing repairs in the home and allows their toddlers to unsafe conditions, such as exposed electrical wiring.

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Assertive as a Caregiver

This refers to being positive and persistent.

Examples of Enhanced

Speaks up for the child in a firm, but not aggressive manner.

Follows the 'no contact order' to ensure the child is safe; calls law enforcement if the offender shows up unannounced.



Examples of Diminished

Tries to be the child's friend and doesn't discipline her/him or follow any consequences.

Defers to the child to make parenting decisions.

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Sets Aside Own Needs

This refers to people who can delay gratifying their own needs, who accept their children's needs as a priority over their own.

Examples of Enhanced

Stays up with a child who has the flu, even when she/he is tired and wants to sleep.

Attends school conferences and activities, even when there are other 'fun' events occurring.



Examples of Diminished

Wants to see or talk to the child and doesn't respect the child's request to not have a visit.

Spends remaining money on cigarettes for her/himself rather than on food for the family.

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Adaptive As A Caregiver

This refers to people who adjust and make the best of whatever caregiving situation occurs.

Examples of Enhanced

Adjusts parenting style based upon the child's age/needs/personality.

During visitations, parent is trying new parenting interventions.



Examples of Diminished

Refuses interventions to help a child struggling with a mental health crisis.

Parent who continues to use strategies that do not work for a child, such as physical discipline.



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Uses Resources to meet basic needs

This refers to knowing what is needed, getting it, and using it to keep child safe.

Examples of Enhanced

Doesn't have insurance so applies for Medicaid.

Parent has a child on juvenile probation and the parent/caregiver is willing to reach out to the juvenile probation officer when the child is struggling at home.



Examples of Diminished

Doesn't have insurance so won't take the child to the doctor when she/he is sick and refuses to seek other assistance.

Parent uses rent money for non-necessities and thus the family is being evicted.



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Supports The Child

This refers to actual and observable acts of sustaining, encouraging and maintaining a child's psychological, physical, and social well-being.

Examples of Enhanced

Child identifies as LGBTQIA 2S+ and parent supports the child sexual identity by engaging with the child in PRIDE community events.

Helps the child with homework and appropriately praises her/his efforts.



Examples of Diminished

Parent kicks their adolescent daughter out of the home when she is pregnant.

Not supporting child's mental health-doesn't seek out any services for depressed teenager who has self-harmed in the recent past.



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Some things to remember...

- We are assessing how the parent/caregiver **act**
 - When assessing if a parent/caregiver has an enhanced or diminished emotional protective capacity we are focusing in on their actions (behavior), not as much as how they feel (emotion) or they way they think (cognitive).
- Remember that the diminished Protective Capacities that we identify should be directly related to the Impending Danger.
- Dig Deep!!!
 - When assessing protective capacities remember to ask questions that explore with parents/caregivers with questions to help determine if what you are seeing is related to their emotional functioning, behavioral, or cognitive (or all three).
- Assess the protective capacity beyond the maltreatment event.
 - Explore how the parent/caregiver is in their day-to-day life and how they function as a parent/caregiver.
- Use your resources:
 - Hard Card SA
 - ND Safety Framework Practice Model (SFPN) Field Guide

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Thank you!



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