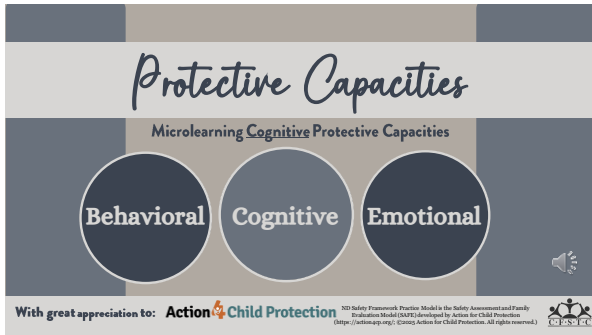
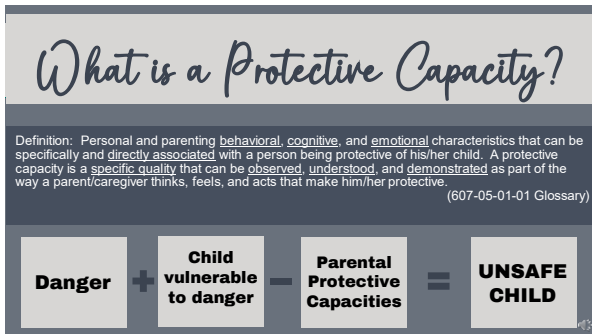
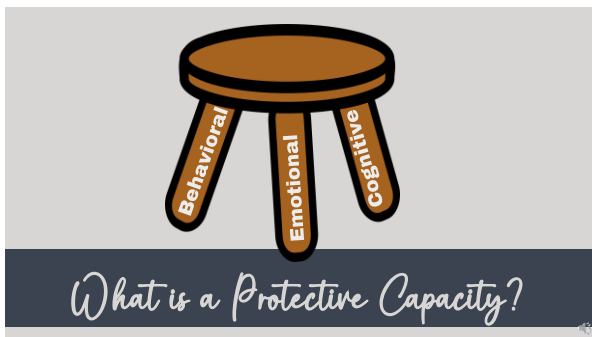




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Cognitive Protective Capacities

Adequate Knowledge
Reality Oriented
Self Aware
Plans and articulates a plan
Aligned with the child
Accurate perceptions
Understands her/his protective role

4

Adequate Knowledge

This refers to information and personal knowledge that is specific to caregiving and is associated with protection.

Enhanced Examples

Understands the needs of the child at various stages of development.

Recognized that toddlers need to be supervised.



Diminished Examples

Parent doesn't understand the risk for a child to run into the middle of the street.

Thinks a 6-year-old can stay home alone for long periods of time.

5

Reality Oriented

This refers to mental awareness and accuracy about one's surroundings; correct perceptions of what is happening; and the viability and appropriateness of responses to what is real and factual.

Examples of Enhanced

Can describe life circumstances accurately and are realistic about options, and situations.

They can identify threats to child safety and are able to respond to those threats in a realistic manner.



Examples of Diminished

Can't remember who the President of the United States is; sees/hears things that aren't there; has a diagnosis of schizophrenia or another debilitating illness that impacts their ability to perceive reality correctly.

6

Self-Aware

This refers to a parent/caregiver's sensitivity to one's thinking an actions and their effects on others and/or the child.

Examples of Enhanced

Injures child while high and makes the connection between her actions and child's injuries reaches out for help.

Recognizes that patience is wearing out and he needs a break from parenting.



Examples of Diminished

Doesn't understand the impact of her overdose on the child who witnessed it, including paramedics doing CPR on her.

If not aware that children are impacted by their fighting in the home, thinks that the children are oblivious to it.

7

Articulates a Plan

This refers to the thinking ability that is evidenced in a reasonable, well thought out plan.

Examples of Enhanced

Talks about the need to get a restraining order and asks the worker to help make it happen.

Understands the need to provide appropriate supervision of the infant at all times.



Examples of Diminished

While the parent may be aware of an unsafe condition for their child, they have no ability to think through a plan on how to keep them safe, so they do nothing.

Leaving a child with a provider with a plan to return, but the parent does not return and is no in contact with the provider.

8

Aligns with the Child

This refers to a mental state or an identity with a child.

Examples of Enhanced

When something bad happens, the parent thinks about how it might impact the child first and foremost.

When a parent has a child with special needs, and the parents learns about their needs, advocates for the child and their well being is put forth as most importance.



Examples of Diminished

When a significant other may be abusive towards the child, and the parent chooses the adult partner over keeping the child safe.

Because of the child's sexual orientation, the parent cuts ties to the child and refuses to have contact with the child.

9

Accurate Perceptions

This refers to seeing and understanding a child's capabilities, needs, and limitations correctly.

Examples of Enhanced

Recognizes the child has a disability that prevents her from being able to stay home alone, even for short periods of time.

Recognizes the child is not responsible for the impacts of trauma, accepts that he will have behaviors that can be difficult to manage at times.



Examples of Diminished

Doesn't see the problem with going down the hall to visit with the neighbor friend while infant is sleeping, and the toddler is watching TV.

Thinks a developmentally disabled 13-year-old should be able to stay at home alone while she works because she's a teenager now.

10

Understands Protective Roles

This refers to awareness; knowing there are certain responsibilities and obligations that are specific to protecting a child.

Examples of Enhanced

Asks questions about the environment the child will be staying in while she is in treatment and asks to meet the people who will care for him in her absence.

Understands that the infant should not be in car with her after she's been drinking.



Examples of Diminished

Doesn't understand how repeatedly getting into relationships with registered sex offenders and not understanding why this puts her children at risk.

Doesn't know the child's friends or the parents to these friends, and doesn't see why that's important.

11

Some things to remember...

- When assessing if a parent/caregiver has an enhanced or diminished cognitive protective capacity we are focusing in on their knowledge and cognition around a situation, not as much as their actions (behavioral) or they way they feel (emotional).
- 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). Sometimes it won't be clear right away, so we need to dig deeper rather than assuming.
- Use your resources:
 - Hard Card 5A
 - ND Safety Framework Practice Model (SFPM) Field Guide

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