

ASSESSING CHILD ON CHILD SEXUAL TRAUMA

BIG OAK RANCH
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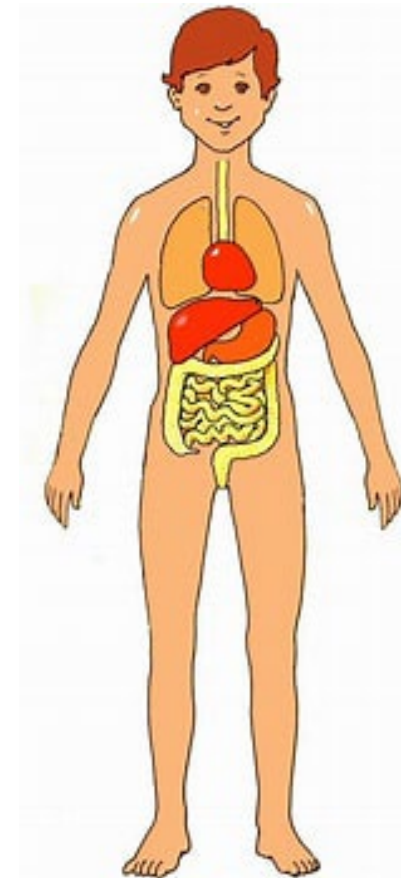
COURTHOUSE





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FIRST BORN V. LAST BORN



SIBLING DEVELOPMENT IN INFANCY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

- IN BETTER FUNCTIONING FAMILIES – SIBLING TIES ARE INITIATED BY PARENTS DURING PREGNANCY
- BY AGE 4, SECOND BORN CHILDREN SPEND MORE TIME TALKING AND PLAYING WITH OLDER SIBLINGS THAN PARENTS
- AS SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOP, PARENTS MUST BE ABLE TO RESPECT THE SIBLING SUBSYSTEM WHILE REMAINING ENGAGED IN CHILD'S LIFE
- STRONGER SIBLING TIES RESULT WHEN CHILDREN LEARN TO SHARE INTERESTS AND MAINTAIN RESPECT FOR THEIR DIFFERENCES

SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS ARE INTENSE

- PERHAPS THE MOST **COMPLICATED** OF RELATIONSHIPS WE FORM
- PERHAPS THE MOST **STRESSFUL** OF RELATIONSHIPS WE FORM
- PERHAPS THE MOST **VOLITILE** OF RELATIONSHIPS WE FORM
- PERHAPS THE MOST **IMPORTANT** OF RELATIONSHIPS WE FORM
- BECAUSE FROM THAT RELATIONSHIP WE BASE
HOW WE WILL - OR WILL NOT - BE TREATED BY
OTHERS

LIFE LONG PARTNER ON JOURNEY

- FIRST FRIEND
- LEARN HOW TO SPEAK
- LEARN HOW TO POTTY
- LEARN HOW TO SHARE
- LEARN HOW TO NEGOTIATE
- LEARN COPING SKILLS
- LEARN HOW TO SURVIVE
- LEARN HOW TO GET ATTENTION

Take 5 Minutes

Imagine you are in the 4th grade. Write a paragraph describing one of your siblings. If you don't have a sibling, write about a very close childhood friend who may have felt like a sibling to you.



THIS IS DIFFICULT

A Moment

Why is it so hard to talk to
Our children about
Normative Sex.....



JAMES SPANN

RESPECT THE POLYGON

EVENTS THAT CAN LEAD TO CHILD TRAUMA

DIVORCE

DEATH

BLENDED FAMILIES

**MENTAL ILLNESS
ADDICTION**

The cell phone... or as my Momma called it “The Devil”



SYSTEMIC FACTORS ENHANCING CHILD ON CHILD TRAUMA

WHEN THEIR PARENTS ARE DISENGAGED

Children rely on siblings for

1. Support
2. Nurture
3. Validation

CHILD ON CHILD TRAUMA OCCURS WITH THIS DISENGAGEMENT
COMBINES WITH LACK OF SUPERVISION

A WORD ABOUT....

- **DENIAL**
- **COACHING**
- **PARENTIFICATION**

CASE STUDY #1

- Alan is 4 and Brian is 6. Their parents had a horrible divorce in which each parent accused the other of infidelity in the marriage. The boys were witnesses to their parents' domestic violence as well as father's alcoholism. Their mother took the boys to a therapist who, within two sessions, reported allegations of suspected sexual trauma to DHR – not by a parent – but by another child of father's new paramour. The mother sought treatment for the children due to nightmares, nocturnal and daytime enuresis, and increased aggression toward one another.

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- ***STOP! DISCUSS YOUR INITIAL THOUGHTS***

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CASE STUDY #2

- Ava is 12 and John is 14. Their mother died after a brief illness. They live with their father who is now enjoying being single again. The children share concerns that their father “never really cared about their mother” and Ava shared, “I often had to take care of Mom because Dad was always gone.”
- John shares that “Dad spends all of his time at work and then goes to the bars before he comes home and passes out.” The school is complaining that the children are often tardy or absent very frequently since their mother’s illness and death.
- ***STOP! DISCUSS YOUR INITIAL THOUGHTS***

CASE STUDY #3

- Rachel is age 6 and her brother, Trey is 15. They are half siblings. Rachel's biological father has two older daughters from a previous relationship. Trey often visits his father but lives primarily with his mother and stepdad where Rachel lives as well. Rachel informed her teacher that Trey is "touching me in my privates." A report is made to DHR.

- ***STOP! DISCUSS YOUR INITIAL THOUGHTS***

CASE STUDY #4

- Micah is 13 years old and is the oldest of three younger siblings. Micah's mother is diagnosed with Avoidant/Dependent Personality and his father is actively abusing Oxycontin after a back injury at work. Micah's mother has placed all of the childcare responsibilities of the younger siblings onto Micah. Micah's father is completely disengaged from the family in pursuit of acquiring more drugs. Micah's father is able to hold down a job, but spends all of the money on drugs. Micah's mother is terrified that others will find out about the problems in the family and asks the children to keep secret what is happening in their home.

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- ***STOP! DISCUSS YOUR INITIAL THOUGHTS***

BIGGEST MISCONCEPTIONS I SEE ABOUT ABUSE

- SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT VICTIMIZATION **BEFORE** THEY LEARN ABOUT SEX
- **THEREFORE, THEY CANNOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FEAR & DESIRE**
- **THEREFORE, THEY CANNOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN PAIN & PLEASURE**
- IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT TWO CHILDREN WOULD INITIATE INCEST OR SEXUAL ABUSE AT THE VERY SAME TIME – IT STARTS WITH ONE CHILD
- CHILDREN BETWEEN 3 AND 5 EXPERIENCE THE MOST HEIGHTENED SEXUAL URGES THAN ANYTIME BEFORE ONSET OF PUBERTY

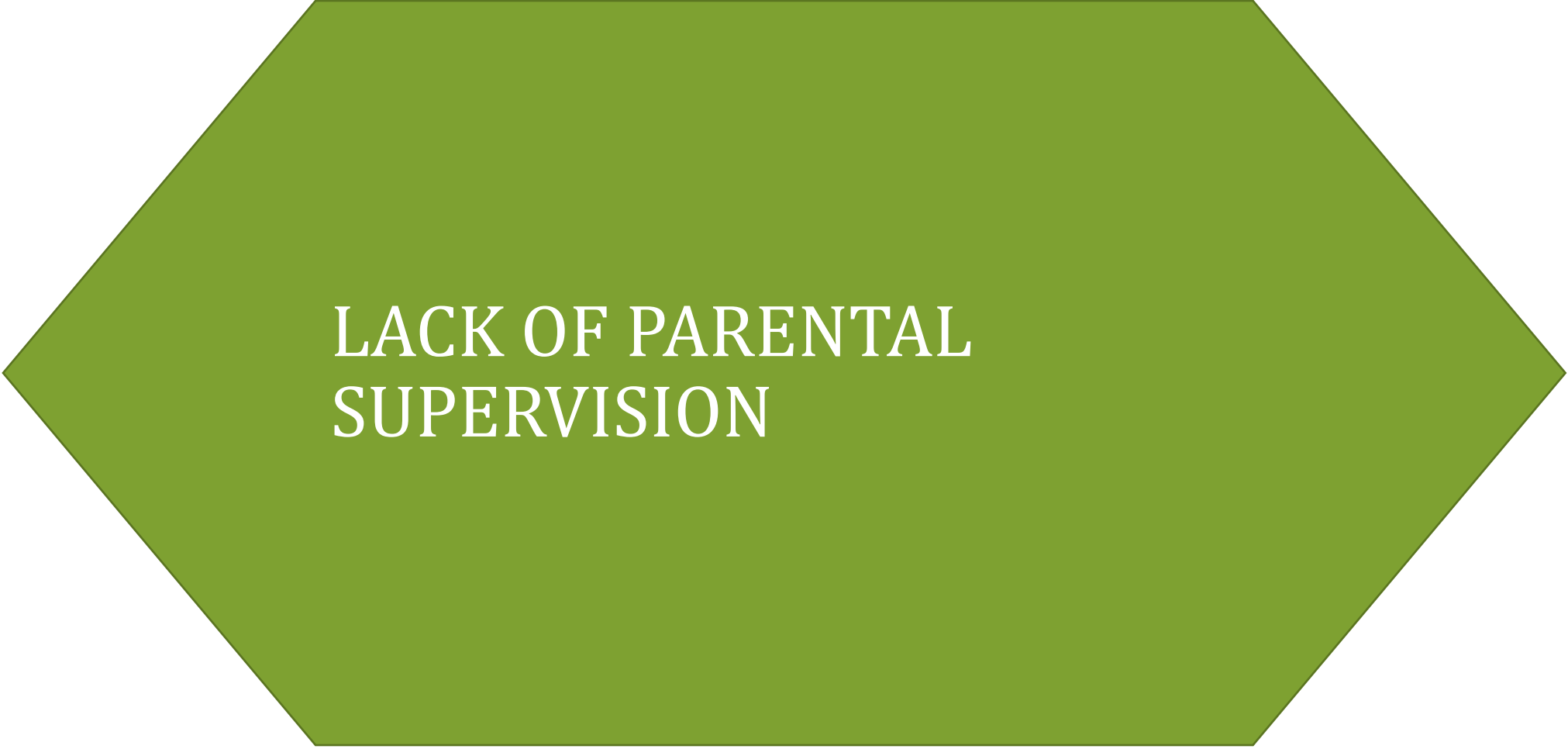
SIBLING SEXUAL ABUSE

- FORCE AND/OR COERCION ARE USED
- LARGE AGE/PHYSICAL/KNOWLEDGE DIFFERENTIAL
- ORAL-GENITAL CONTACT
- INTERCOURSE
- AVERAGE AGE OF VICTIMS IS 9
- AVERAGE AGE OF OFFENDERS IS 15
- MAY BE ENGAGING IN BEHAVIOR TO COPE WITH UNMET NEEDS FOR AFFECTION AND AFFILIATION
- MAY INCLUDE UNWANTED VERBAL SEXUAL REFERENCES

V. NORMATIVE SEX PLAY

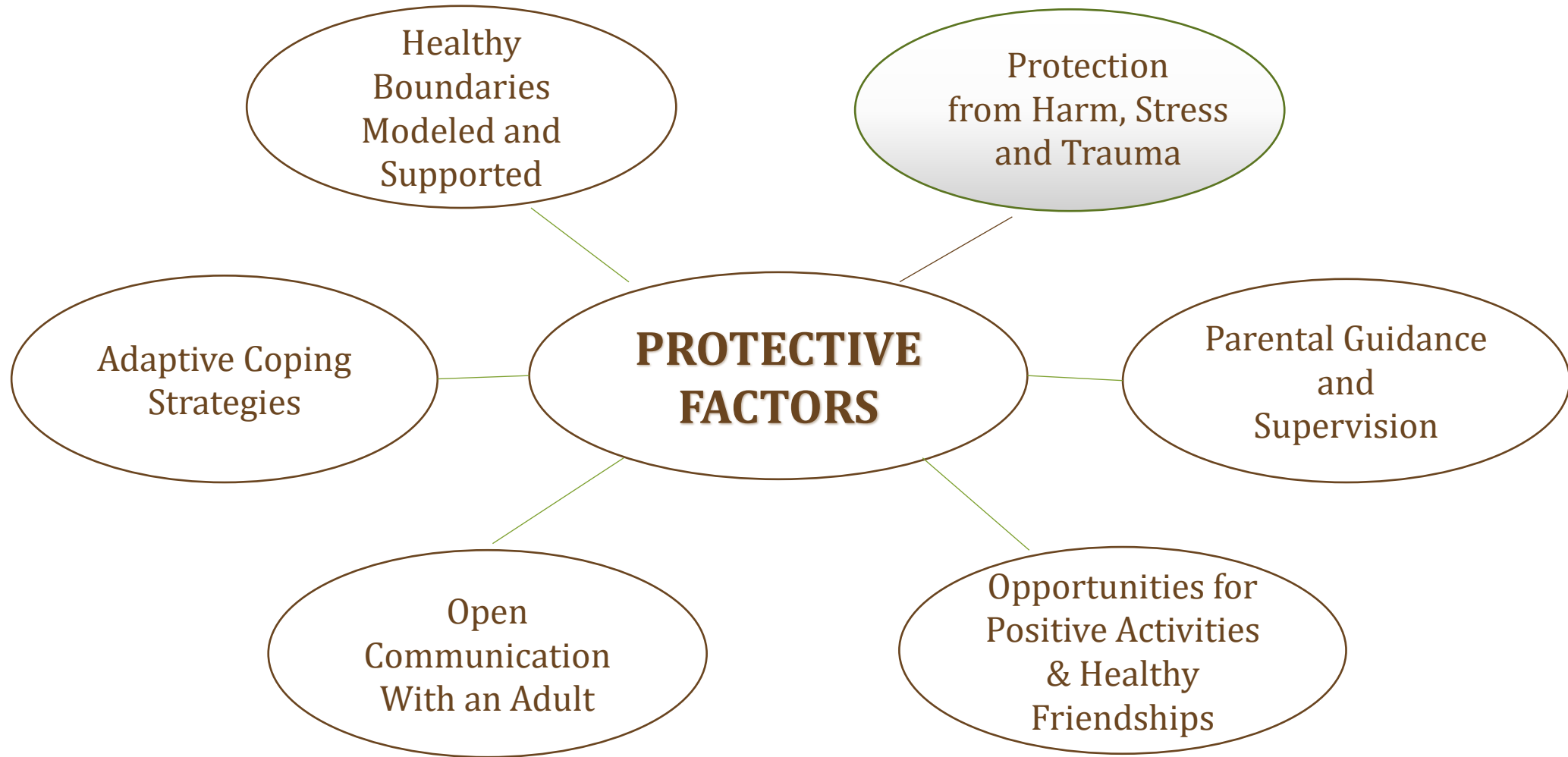
- SEXUAL CURIOSITY
- SEXUAL EXPERIMENTATION
- BOTH CHILDREN ARE EQUALLY SEXUALLY NAIVE
- LACKS POWER DIFFERENTIAL
- LACKS SIZE DIFFERENTIAL
- CLOSE IN AGE IF NOT SAME AGE
- TRUST IS NOT BETRAYED
- CHILDREN ARE NOT TRAUMATIZED BY OVERLY REACTIVE DISAPPROVING ADULTS

ASSESSING SIBLING ABUSE POTENTIAL

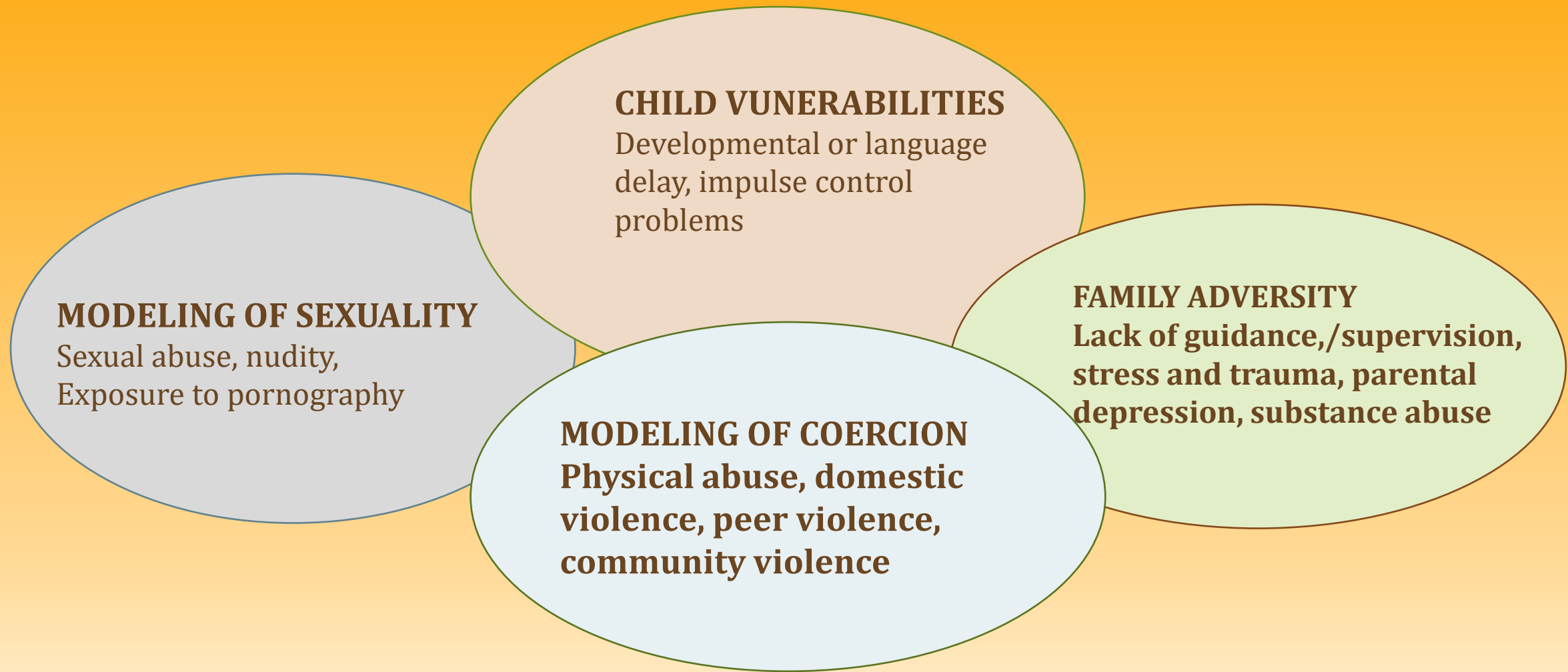


LACK OF PARENTAL
SUPERVISION

SUPPORTIVE & PROTECTIVE FACTORS



- ORIGINS OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS



THE TARGETED CHILD

- TAKES ON THE PAIN BODY OF THE WHOLE FAMILY
- RELIEVES OTHERS IN THE FAMILY OF DEALING WITH THEIR OWN “STUFF”
- BLAMED FOR EVERYTHING - EVERYTHING
- ESPEICALLY PRESENT IN DRUG ADDICTED FAMILIES
- “YOU’RE THE REASON MOMMY DRINKS”
- YOU’RE THE REASON WE CAN’T HAVE NICE THINGS

THE FAVORED CHILD

- HAVE THEIR OWN CROSS TO BEAR
- WHILE PARENTS LAUD PRAISE ON THIS CHILD, TO THE OTHER CHILDREN, IT APPEARS THIS IS THE FAVORITE CHILD AND THE OTHER CHILDREN PLOT REVENGE
- PARENTS CAN CREATE AN ABUSER OUT OF THE FAVORED CHILD BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE EVERYTHING THIS CHILD SAYS AND THE FAVORED CHILD IS EMPOWERED TO TAKE DOMINION OVER THE OTHER CHILD/CHILDREN
- CAN BECOME VERY REPRESSED AND RESENTFUL BECAUSE THEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE THE PERFECT CHILD – THE PERFECT CARETAKER – THE PERFECT ADULT
- CAN BECOME PARENTIFIED – MEANING THEY FEEL EQUAL TO THE ADULTS IN THE FAMILY AND COME TO BELIEVE THEY DESERVE ADULT PRIVILEGES

ASSESSMENT: COMMON MISSES

- INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA CHECKLIST
- INCORPORATE THE WHOLE FAMILY IN ASSESSMENT
- SIBLING ABUSE INTERVIEW
- KEEN AWARENESS ON CHILD & CAREGIVER'S WORDING
- DYNAMICS BETWEEN THE SIBLINGS – THE LITTLE THINGS

ASSESSING SIBLING ABUSE POTENTIAL

DISPARITY IN
TREATMENT
OF SIBLINGS

GROSS
POWER
IMBALANCES

OLDER
BROTHER
SLOW TO
DEVELOP

RIGID
GENDER
ROLES

LACK OF
PARENTAL
SUPERVISION

YOUNGER
SIBLING IS
DEPENDENT
ON OLDER

CLOSED
FAMILY
SYSTEM

PORNOGRAPHY

EROTOPHOBIA

ADD IN THE FAMILY STRESSORS

**DRUG
ABUSE**

**MENTAL HEALTH
ISSUES IN
PARENTS**

**FAMILY
HISTORY OF
INCEST**

**LONG ABSENCES
OF ONE PARENT**

**UNAVAILABLE
FATHER
UNAVAILABLE
MOTHER**

**DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE**

**SINGLE PARENT
ATTRACTING
ABUSIVE
PARAMOURS**

**SCAPEGOATING OF
TARGETED CHILD**

SIBLING STRESSORS

ONE SIBLING
CONTINUALLY
INVADING
ANOTHER
SIBLING'S SPACE

PARENTAL
MENTAL
ILLNESS

PARENTIFICATION OF A
SIBLING

FAVORED
CHILD

EMOTIONAL
NEGLECT

SIBLING OFFENDERS – RISK FACTORS

- OFFENDERS THINKING ERRORS THAT DISTORT OR MINIMIZE ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS
- HISTORY OF VICTIMIZATION BY PARENT, OLDER SIBLING, OR OTHERS
- INADEQUATE IMPULSE CONTROL, EMPATHIC DEFICITS, OR EMOTIONAL MATURITY
- WILLINGNESS TO USE COERCION OR FORCE TO CONTROL VICTIM
- DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL USE
- DISSOCIATIVE REACTIONS TO TRAUMA
- DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPULSIVE, DEVIANT SEXUAL AROUSAL PATTERN

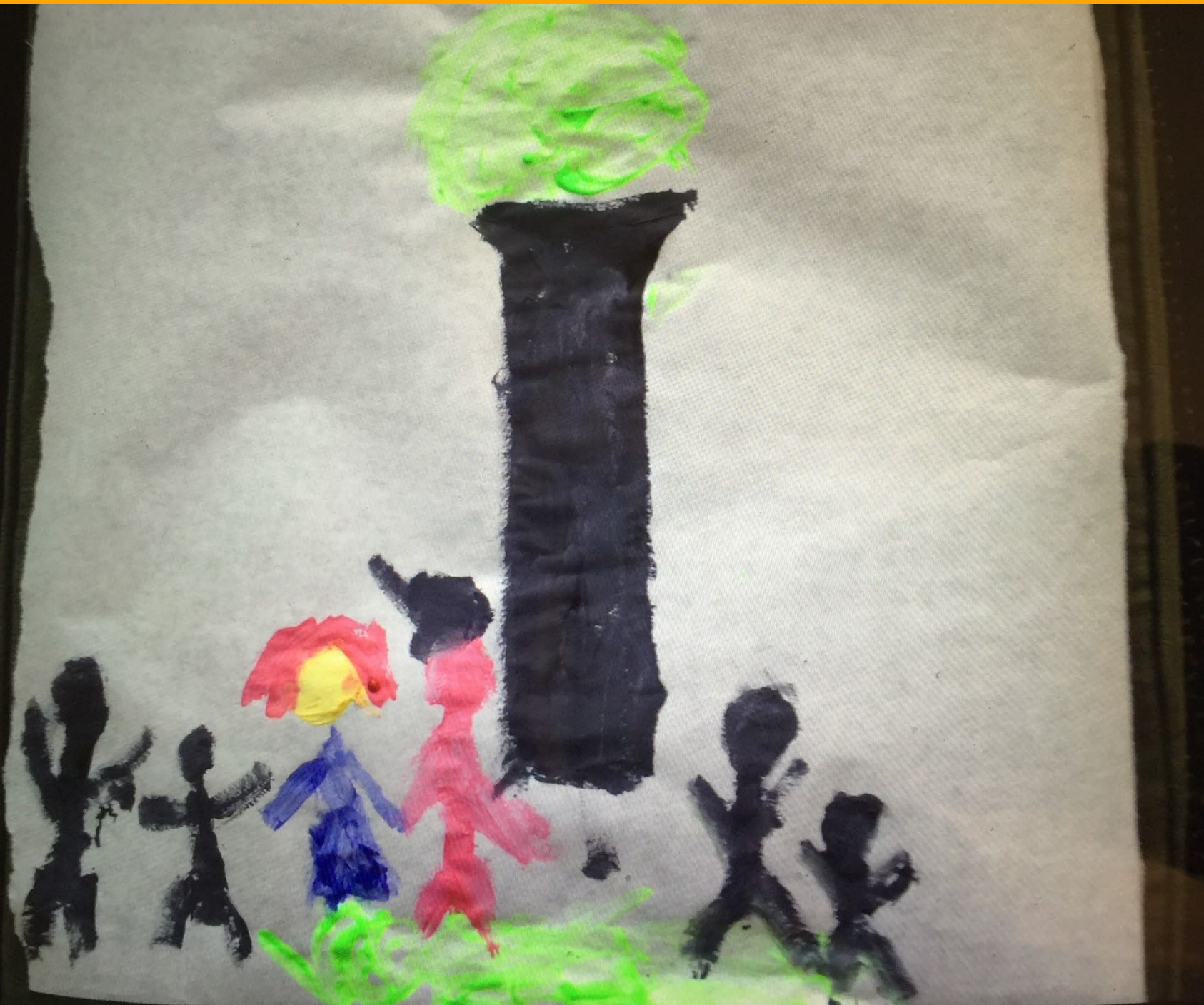
- Sibling Trauma Abuse

SIBLING VICTIMS - RISK FACTORS

LARGE DEVELOPMENTAL, PHYSICAL, OR INTELLECTUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SIBLINGS

- VICTIM'S DEPENDENCE ON AN OLDER, MORE POWERFUL SIBLING
- LACK OF OTHER SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS
- PRIOR HISTORY OF VICTIMIZATION
- LACKS SEX EDUCATION

- Sibling Trauma Abuse





TWO SIDES OF THE SIBLING COIN

- “SUPPORTIVE CARETAKING”, “DIRECT INSTRUCTION”, “FACILITATIVE MODELING OF DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES”

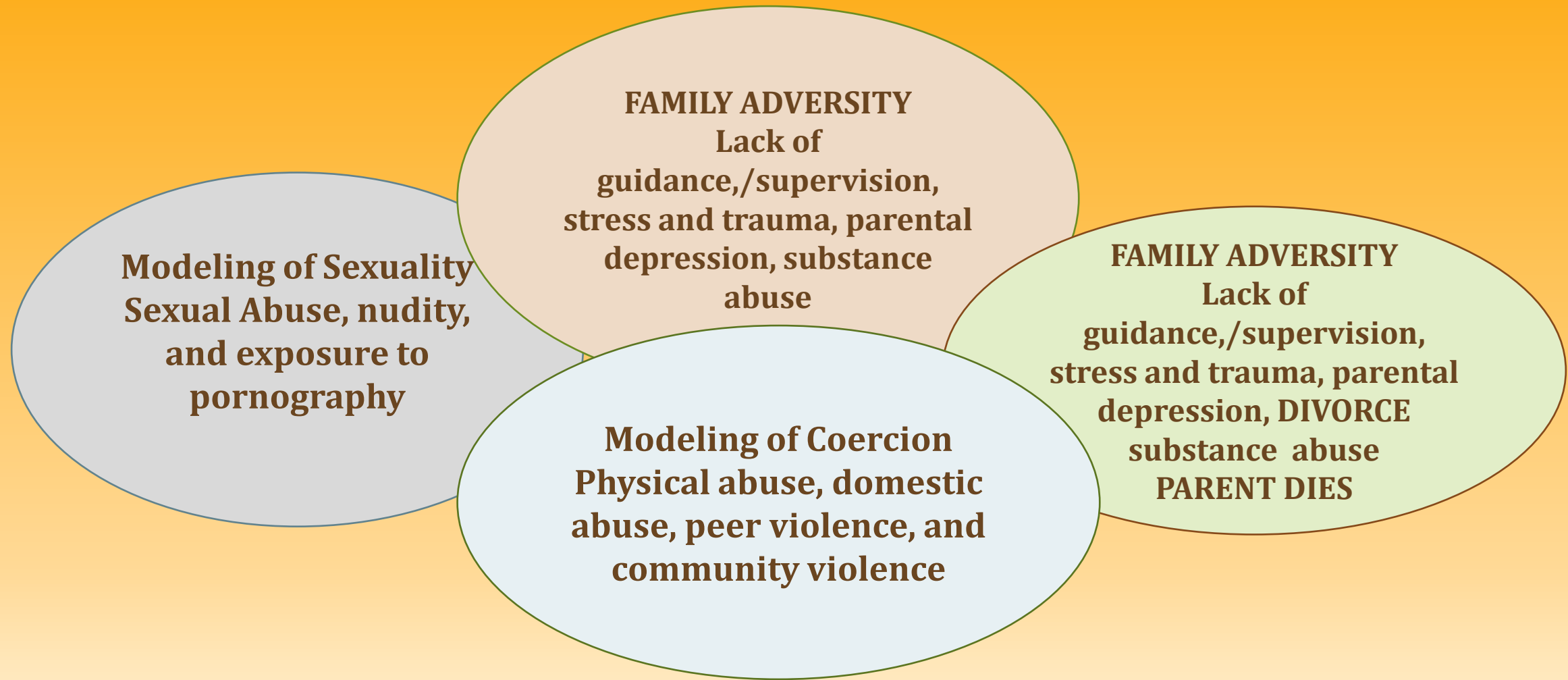


Sibling Rivalry

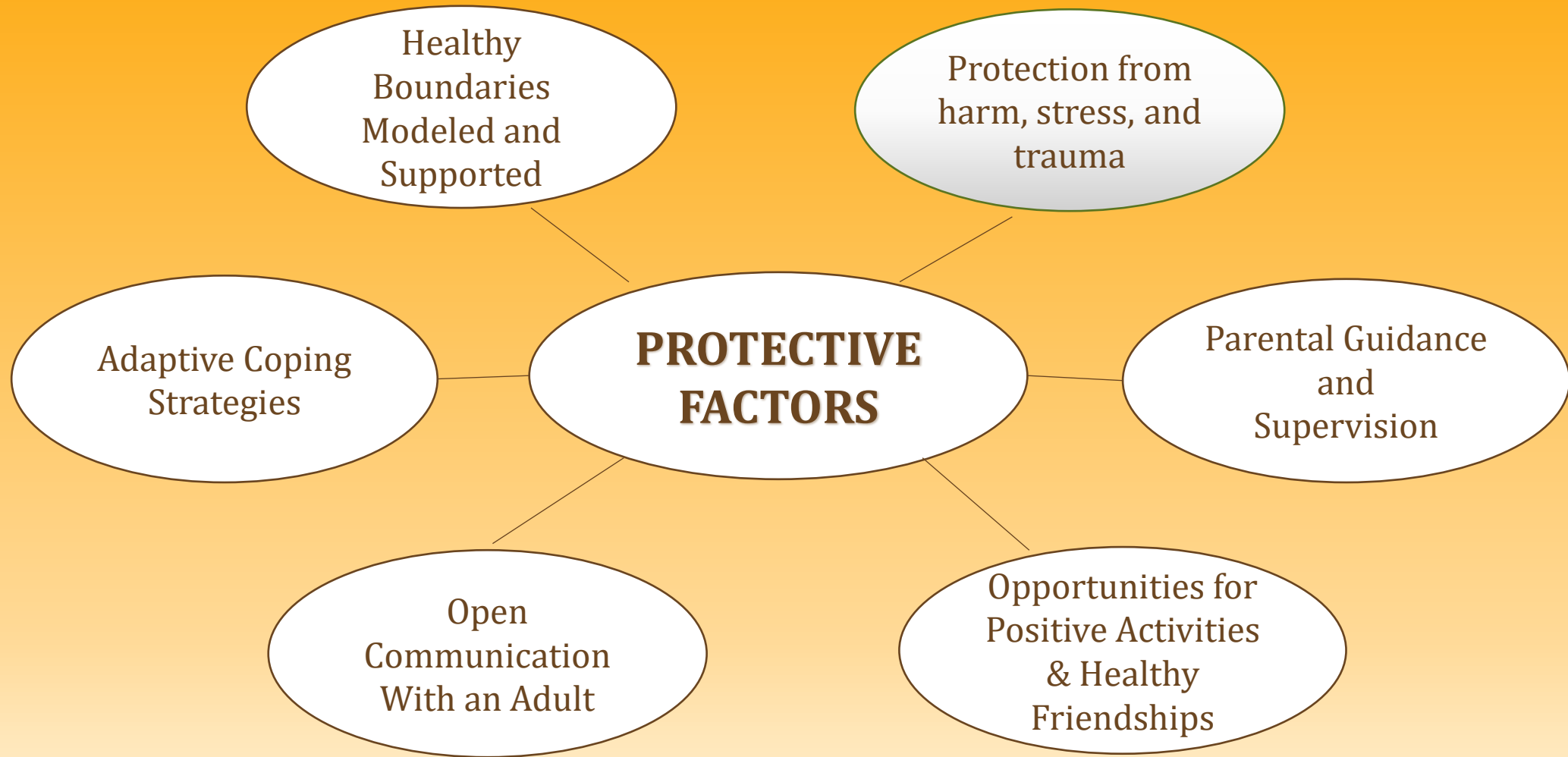


Psychological Closeness

- ORIGINS OF SEXUAL BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS



SUPPORTIVE & PROTECTIVE FACTORS



ASSESSING SIBLING ABUSE POTENTIAL

**LACK OF PARENTAL
SUPERVISION**

CHECKED OUT PARENTS

**FAVORED V. TARGETED
CHILD**

**MULTIPLE FATHERS – ONE
IS FAVORED**

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- CHILDREN HAVE ONE WAY OF PRESENTING IN FRONT OF A PARENT
- CHILDREN HAVE ANOTHER WAY OF PRESENTING WITH A SIBLING
- CHILDREN PERCEIVE THE SAME FAMILY EVENT DIFFERENTLY.
 - SHOWS THE PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SIBLINGS
 - EXPLAINS THE COMPLEXITY OF ATTACHMENT IN CHANGING FAMILY SYSTEMS
- INTERVIEW PARENTS/CAREGIVERS SEPARATELY
- LOOK FOR COMMON PHRASES YOU SEE IN ADULT AND CHILD
- CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CAN ALSO GIVE HINT THAT AN ADULT IN THE FAMILY IS BEING ABUSED

WHAT I'VE LEARNED IN 33 YEARS OF ASSESSMENT

- EXPECT COACHING BUT..... IT IS NOT THE CHILD'S FAULT
- INTERVIEW ALL PARENTS FIRST – LEARN THEIR LANGUAGE AND SEE IF YOU FIND THAT ADULT LANGUAGE IN THEIR CHILDREN
- TUNE INTO PARENTS' DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CHILDREN. ASK THE QUESTION – “HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE (EACH CHILD)” – THEN REALLY LISTEN.
- START YOUR INTERVIEW WITH THE YOUNGEST CHILD AND WORK YOUR WAY UP IN BIRTH ORDER.
- PLEASE DON'T DISREGARD A CHILD'S ALLEGATION JUST BECAUSE PARENTS ARE DIVORCING – THIS IS WHEN THEY NEED YOU THE MOST

FAMILY ASSESSMENT

- SECURE MOTHER-CHILD ATTACHMENT = LACK OF AGGRESSION TOWARD SIBS
- INSECURE ATTACHMENT = RE-ENACTMENT OF NON-NURTURING BEHAVIOR
- CHANGE AGENTS PRESENT IN INCEST AND ASSAULT:
 - DIVORCE
 - DEATH
 - DRUGS
 - BLENDED FAMILIES
 - JOB CHANGES
 - MOVE TO NEW HOME/SCHOOL
 - DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF CHILDREN – ESPECIALLY IN CHILD SUICIDE



AGAIN ...
THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN BOYS
AND GIRLS

MALE VICTIMS IN FAMILIES

- MAJORITY ARE VICTIMIZED BY OTHER MALES
- GENDER BASED TENDENCY TO NOT TALK ABOUT FEELINGS OR SHARE PROBLEMS
- TAUGHT NOT TO DISPLAY VULNERABILITY – POWERLESSNESS
- RELUCTANT TO DISCLOSE MALE ON MALE ABUSE FOR FEAR OF BEING “GAY”
- BOYS TEND TO EXTERNALIZE STRESS/TRAUMA
- GIRLS TEND TO INTERNALIZE STRESS

Coty's Squiggle Drawing



