



Child Neglect

When protection means support

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CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING
CENTRES D'EXCELLENCE POUR LE BIEN-ÊTRE DES ENFANTS



Child Welfare / La protection et le bien-être des enfants

Introduction

- Research/practice partnerships around the development of comprehensive programs in child neglect :
 - Exploration, description, and analysis of *exemplary practices* in child neglect through an Appreciative Inquiry approach;
 - Elaboration of an *ecosystemic theory of child neglect* that proposes reflecting tools that are useful when we want to develop and evaluate comprehensive programs



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The World of Neglect

- Child neglect is a *context* before it is a behaviour:
 - Parents’ and children’s behaviours are individual adaptations to harsh objective conditions that determine “rules of life” in this context.
 - The neglect of ecology (focus on parental behaviour) is the main characteristic of the ecology of neglect!
- Rules of life in a world of neglect:
 - Choice of necessity
 - Individualistic conceptions of parenthood
 - “Brutal” opposition between children’s and adults’ interests.

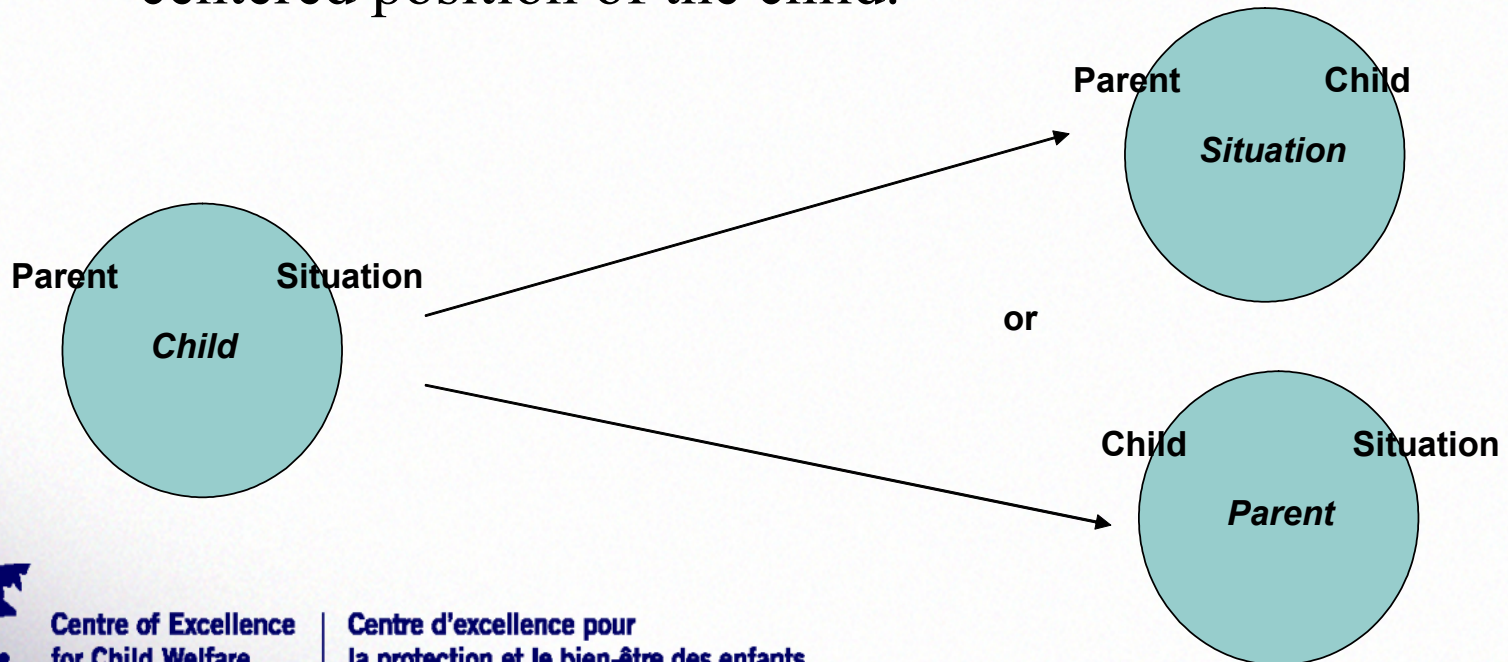


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Defining Child Neglect: The “Double Perturbation” Model

- Perturbation of the parent-child relationship:
 - From a de-centered position of the parent to a de-centered position of the child.



Defining Child Neglect: The “Double Perturbation” Model

- Perturbation of the family-community rapport:
 - Social isolation/exclusion limiting:
 - Provision of support to the parents (functional isolation),
 - Provision of relational alternatives for children when a parent fails to be physically or psychologically available,
 - Diversity of developmental experiences for the children.



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Acting Towards Child Neglect

- From “personalization” to “contextualization” of neglect.
- From fragmented supports/services to integrated supports/services.
- Professional services should be defined in terms of interpersonal relations (alliances) with family members.
- Direct actions toward neglected children.



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