Psychosocial Issues

Speakers:

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- The psychosocial perspective takes into consideration social, psychological, and environmental factors and must be looked at in the context of the culture’s history, belief system, and child rearing practices.
- Some consequences of trauma among Asian children have included: loss of cultural identity, the breakdown of intergenerational relationships, mistrust, fear, and trans-generational trauma.
- It is of great importance not to misclassify normal reactions to trauma for pathological responses.
- Effective methods for healing have included: listening to the child’s story and not simply fact searching, incorporating local healing traditions, the creating of surrogate families for a support systems, and engaging the entire community in the healing process.
- The view of the child will be influenced by the biological changes that occur in the brain as a result of traumatic events.
- Trauma is defined as a stressor that overwhelms the individual’s capacity to cope. An individual who experiences trauma loses the ability to discriminate between varied degrees of stimulus. The individual, unknowingly, will respond to neutral situations as a threat which can result in a variety of behavior problems as an attempt at self regulation.
- Response to traumatic behavior begins with creating an environment of safety, followed by intervention (driving a wedge between the stimulus and response to give space for thought).
- The person who is aiding in the trauma must be grounded and focus on self care to avoid burn out, rescue mode, and boundary violations with the child.
- Most often Western child development theories are not helpful when dealing with different cultures.
- A multi level model must be used
  - Inform the child of the process and what to expect
  - Treatment and counseling (creative techniques that are culturally appropriate)
  - Cultural empowerment
  - Integration of Western and Indigenous Healing methodologies
  - Incorporation of advocacy (Social Justice and Human Rights)