



Roles of a Parent

What does it mean to be an advocate for my child?

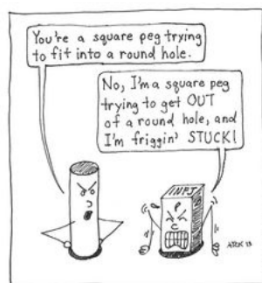
I LOVE MY KIDDO!



Some Children require different levels of support.

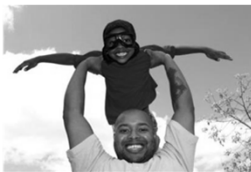


Your child may face challenges not experienced by other children... and you, as primary caregiver, will need to develop additional skills and strategies to support them!



How Many Hats
Can You Wear?





Advocate

Champion and Spokesperson

Advocate

- + You are the *champion* of your child's success!
- + You *promote* your child's needs.
- + You are the primary *spokesperson* for your child!



Momma Bear!



How Do I “Fight” Without Hitting?

- + Understand the rules.
- + Learn about your child.
- + Share information about your child with the team.
- + Ask how to work with your child at home.
- + Partner with the school against the “problem”.

Work With the TEAM



If you attack, then others will defend.



So What Can I Do?

Start with the right motive.
 Work as a team.
 Problem solve together.
 Keep it simple.
 Team tag!
 See the team as "human".
 Learn to communicate effectively
 Listen!
 Stick to the facts.
 Stay on track!



Things to Keep in Mind

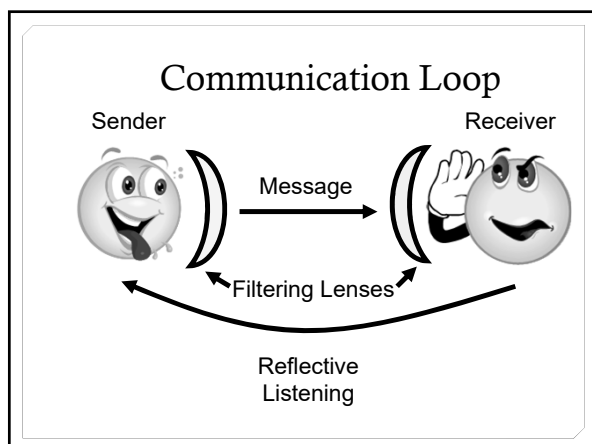
- + Educational outcomes are improved when families, schools and service providers work together effectively.
- + Training and support helps us learn together and problem solve in ways that are more responsive to individual students' needs.

Listening

Seek first to Understand, then be Understood!

Is Listening just Hearing?

- + Following the *thoughts and feelings* of others to *understand* what they are saying from their *perspective, frame of reference, or point of view.*
- + Disciplined Skill.
- + Conveys **DIGNITY & RESPECT!**



Listening is a disciplined skill

You can't do two things at once
if one of them is listening.

You can't listen if you are trying to
figure out what to say.

You can't listen if you are
assuming.

Positions & Interests

- **Position:**
 - ❖ Specific solution proposed to resolve problem – the “What”
- **Interest:**
 - ❖ Underlying real need/desire that gives position its life (beliefs, values, expectations, fears, priorities, hopes, concerns) – the “Why”
- **Depositioning:**
 - ❖ Why is that solution so important to you?





Finding the Interests

- What need is the person taking this position attempting to satisfy?
- What is motivating the person?
- What is the person trying to accomplish?
- What is the person afraid will happen if a demand is not fulfilled?



Finding the Interests

Question, question, question...

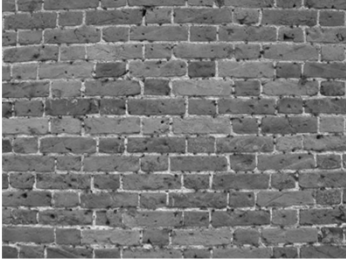
- "Why is that solution so important for you?"
- Why are you suggesting...?
- "What would you accomplish in getting what you want?"
- "What if that did/didn't happen?"
- "How will you be affected by...?"
- "Imagine that you got _____; what would be taken care of?"

Summary: Interest-based Negotiation

- ▣ Aims not to change the other person, but to change negotiation behavior
- ▣ Shifts from "your position versus mine" to "you and I versus the problem"
- ▣ Involves a mutual exploration of interests to yield more creative options.
- ▣ Uses objective criteria

Adapted from Highnam, K. (2001). Interest-based negotiation, CSSEA 2001 Fall Conference and AGM. Surry B.C., Canada. CSSEA; Fisher and Ury, *Getting to Yes*.

What stands in the way?

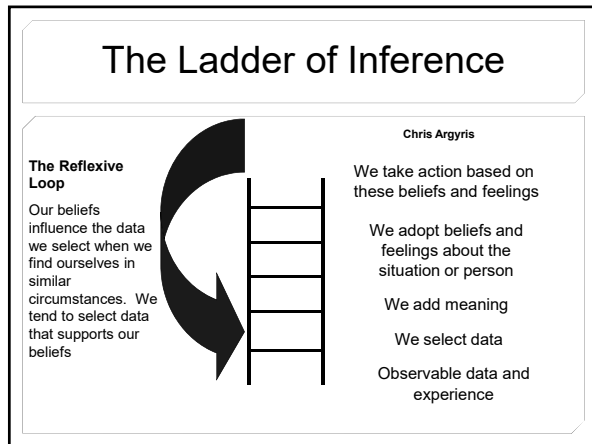


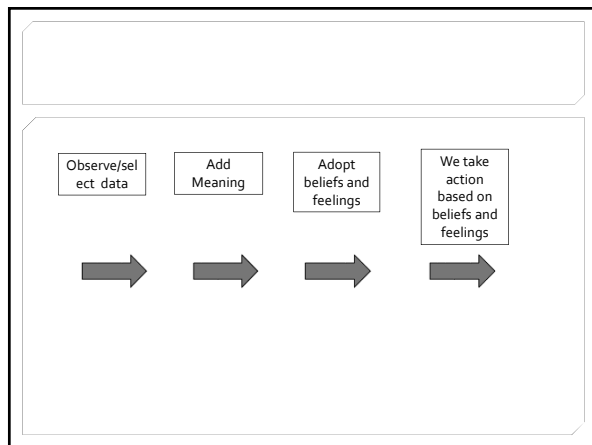
Human Nature

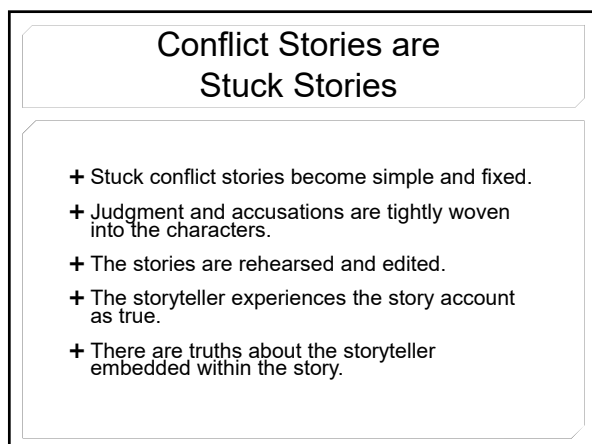
- + We can sometimes have trouble making a difficult situation safe for each other to really talk about the issues.
- + We let our emotions take over our heads!
- + Stick to the facts!
- + Keep the right motive in mind!
- + Stay on the task at hand.

Understanding the Story

- + We organize our experiences in narrative form.
- + We use stories to make sense of our our lives and our relationships.
- + Our stories are influenced by social and cultural contexts.
- + We act on the stories, shaping the direction of the plot.
- + Stories are not designed to tell the scientific truth.



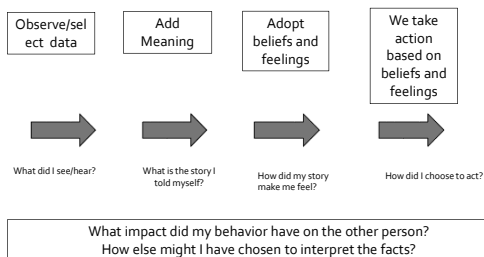




Deconstructing the Story

- + Get back to the facts – *What did I see/hear?*
- + Analyze your story – *What is the story I told myself?*
- + What was my emotional response – *How did my story make me feel?*
- + What were the resulting behavior – *How did I choose to act?*
- + *What impact did my behavior have on the other person?*
- + Alternate Story - *How else might I have chosen to interpret the facts*

Reflective Questioning



Define Mutual Purpose.

Why are we meeting today?
What are we meeting about?

To revise a behavioral plan? To make a manifestation determination?
To determine placement?

It may seem obvious, but it should be stated and discussed.



When things get "stuck" – go back and state why you all are there today. Get back on track.

State My Path

VitalSmarts

Begin with a good motive.

Start With Facts

As I understand it....

Tell Your Story

*I'm beginning to wonder if ...
It's starting to appear that...
I'm not sure about this, but it seems to me that...
I could be wrong, but it looks to me as if
I thought we had agreed that.....*

Ask How Others See It?

*Do you see it differently?
Did I miss something
What's your point of view on this?
How do you see it?
Is that what's going on?*

Listen and Give Feedback

1. You say that you would like to place my child homebound until he is able to behave better? Who will be working with him to learn to behave better?
2. How long do you think he will be on a homebound program?
3. Is there a plan in place to help him return to school?
1. How long would he be home? Who is supervising the plan?
2. I understand your concerns are(list what you know them to be). My concern is that(state the concern, the fear etc. My child will not have appropriate access to a daily education.
3. Have you exceeded your ability to understand and work with my child at school? If so, do you feel that school would benefit from having a behavior consultant?

Ideas are like rabbits.

**You get a couple
and learn how
to handle them --**

**and pretty soon
you have a dozen.**

John Steinbeck



Special Education Resolution Center

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Feel free to call any time to talk. I can brainstorm ideas, try
and give you options to resolve disputes.....