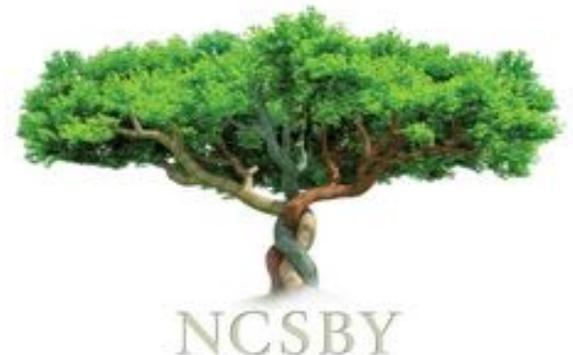


Clinical Assessment of Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior: An Overview

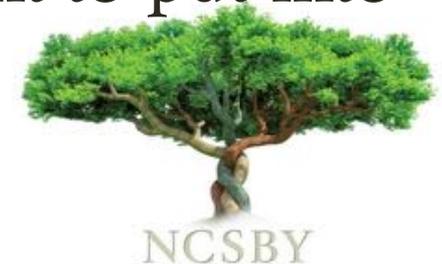
Jane F. Silovsky, Ph.D.

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth



What is Problematic Sexual Behavior?

- What is sexual development in children?
- When should we be concerned about sexual behavior?
- When does it rise to the level of needing treatment? What type of treatment is recommended?
- What safety measures will be important to put into place?



Typical Sexual Development

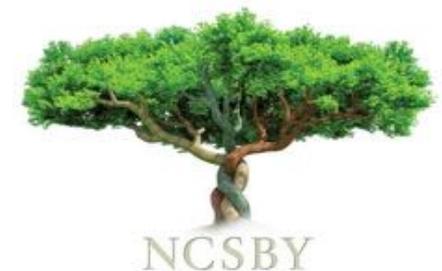
- Part of overall development
- Curiosity
- Learning about the world
- Language
- Mimicking
- Agreement



There is a purpose to Sexual Development.

Healthy friendship, relationships, communication, nurturance and intimacy are not innate.

Many factors can make the process even more difficult.

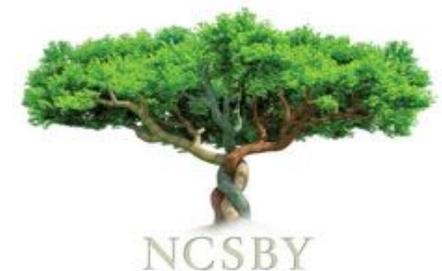


Problematic Sexual Behavior

| Frequency | Developmental Considerations | Harm |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| High Frequency | Occurs between Youth of Significantly Divergent Ages/Developmental Abilities | Intrusive Behaviors |
| Excludes Normal Childhood Activities | Behaviors are Longer in Duration than Developmentally Expected | Includes Force, Intimidation, and/or Coercion |
| Unresponsive (i.e., does not decrease) to Typical Parenting Strategies | Behavior Interferes with Social Development | Elicits Fear & Anxiety in Other Children |

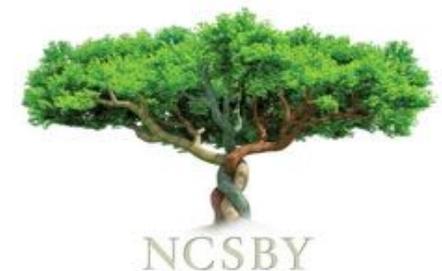
What is the Goal of the Clinical Assessment?

- Is there a problematic sexual behavior?
 - Interview, gathering details about behavior
 - Child Sexual Behavior Inventory
- Treatment planning
 - Not a diagnosis
 - Details on the behavior
 - Co occurring conditions
- Safety planning
 - Home
 - School
 - Community

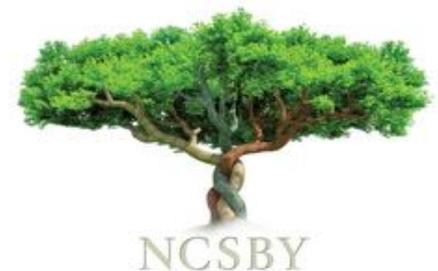
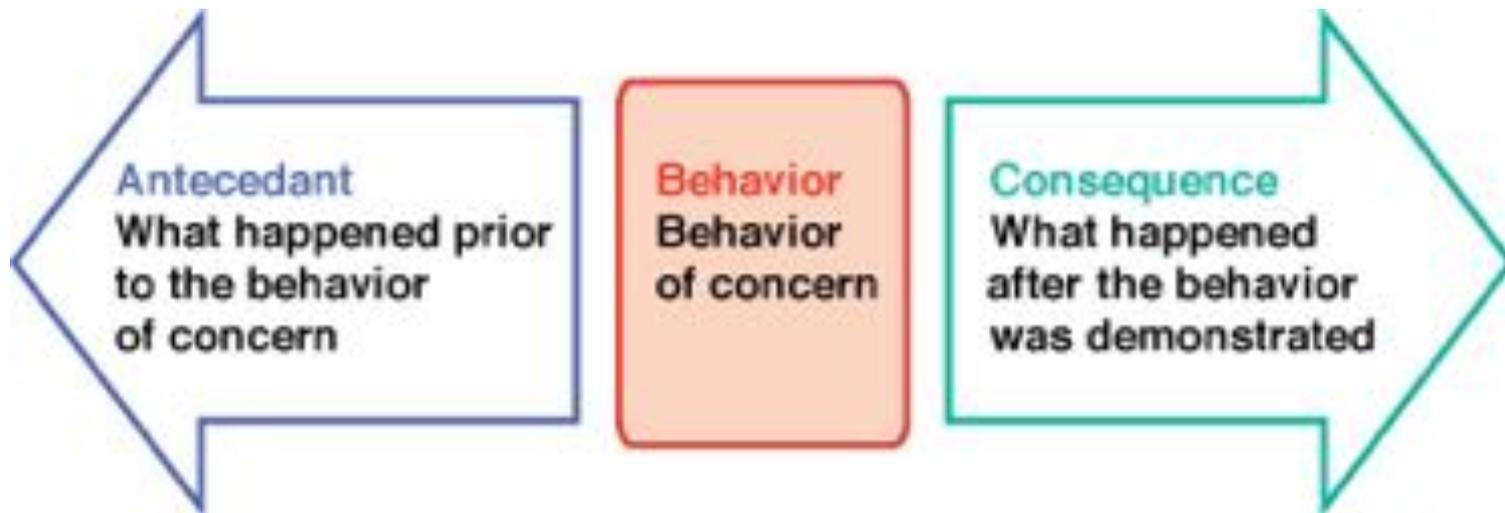


What Types of Children have Sexual Behavior Problems?

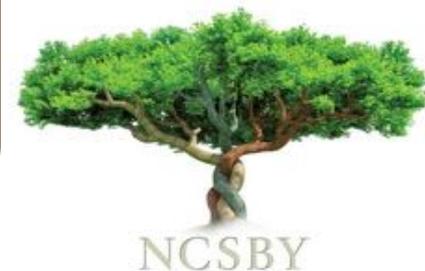
- Boys and Girls have problematic sexual behavior
- Found in children as young as 3 years of age
- No profile
- Many have not been sexually abused



Sexual Behavior

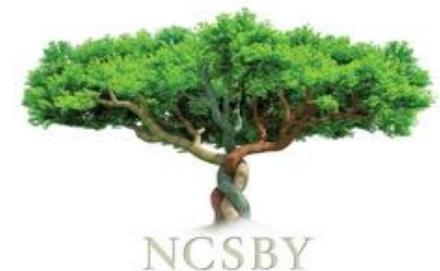


Contributing Factors



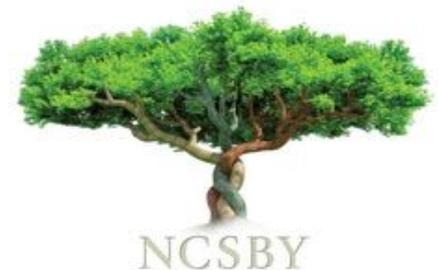
Impact of Technology

- Devices
- Modalities

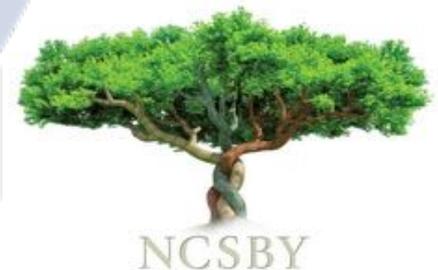
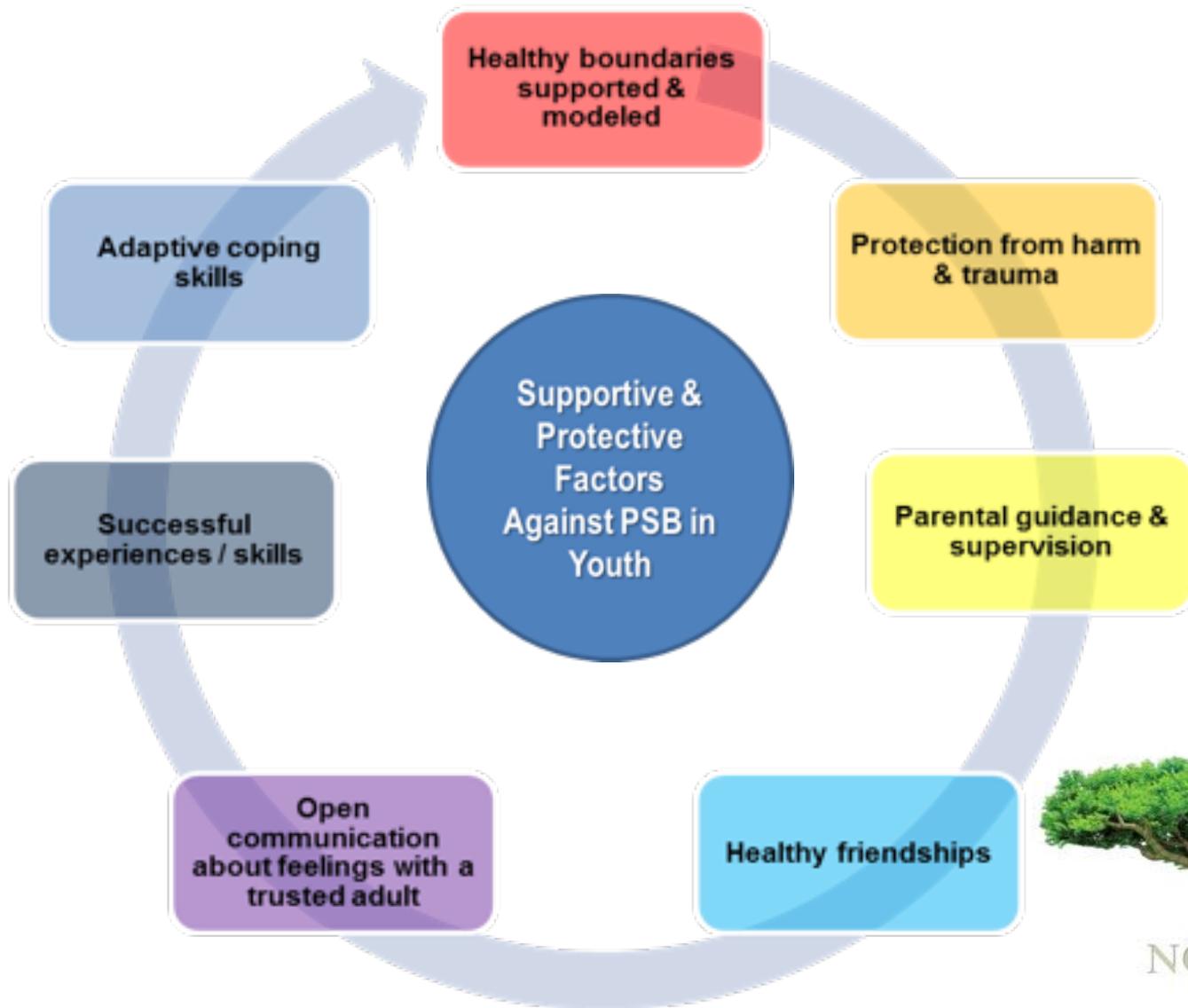


Co-Occurring Concerns

- Disruptive Behavior Disorders
 - ADHD
 - Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- Trauma
 - Impact on behavior
 - Post traumatic Stress Disorder
- Language and learning



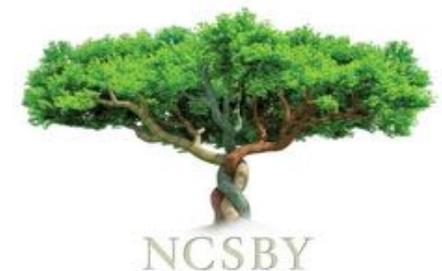
Protective Factors



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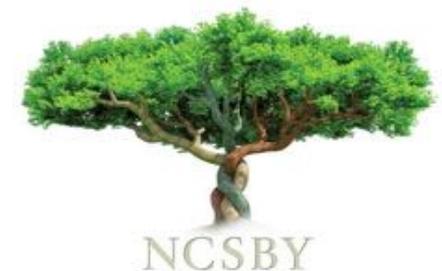
Developmental Considerations

- Sexual development – now and future
- Acknowledging the behavior
 - Does it matter if they don't?
- Empathy



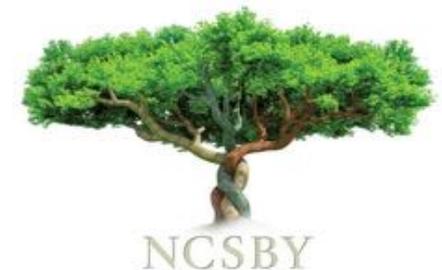
Treatment Planning

- Targets of treatment
 - Greatest severity
 - Greatest concern
- Who involve in treatment
- Type of treatment



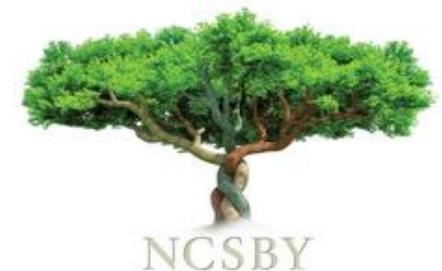
Characteristics of Effective Interventions

- Caregiver direct and active involvement
 - Supervision
 - Parenting skills
 - Sex education
 - Rules and Boundaries
 - Abuse prevention
- Cognitive behavioral
- Skill based
- Decision making



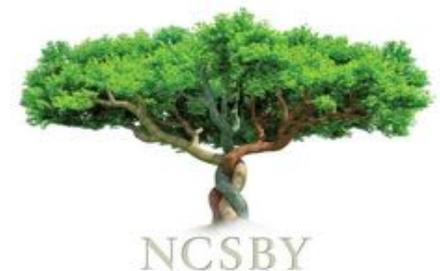
Safety Planning

- Responsiveness to supervision
 - Severity of behavior
 - Capacity of the caregivers
 - Vulnerability of children
 - Risky situations
-
- Rules about behavior
 - What do and what not do
 - Supervision level
 - Reassess over time



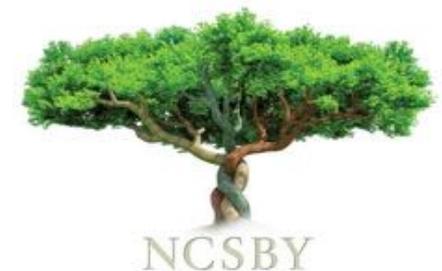
Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

- Know reporting laws in community
- Disclosures of abuse or neglect at assessment
- Caregiver response

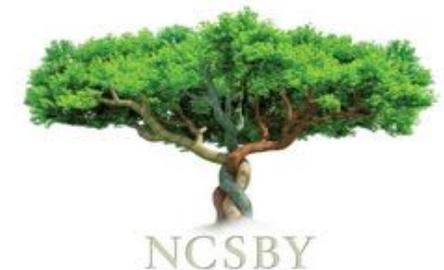
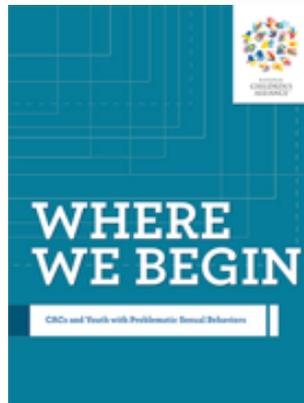
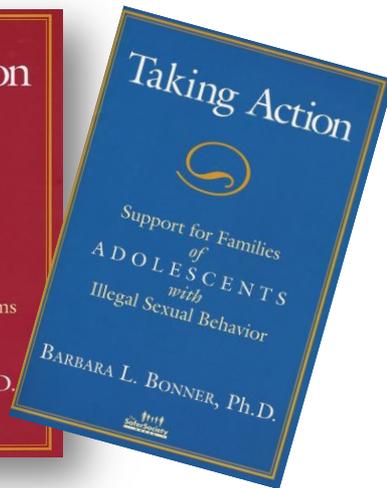
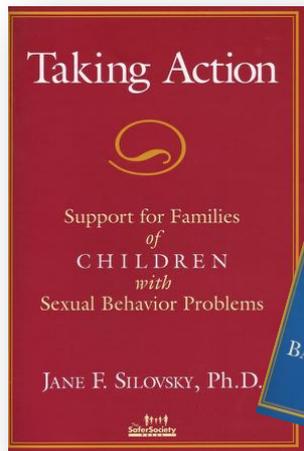


Conclusions

- Kids first (not mini-adults)
- Individualized assessment of family
- Risk and protective factors
- Children are malleable -
 - Assessment is a snapshot



Professional Resources



NEARI Press Webinars

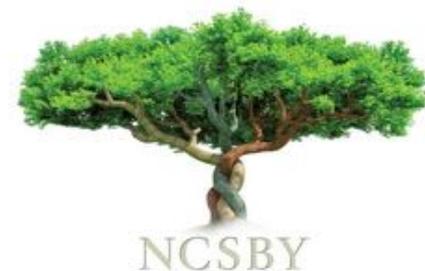
March 13: Assessment of Problematic Sexual Behavior in Children: What, When and How

Erin Taylor, PhD

April 10: Clinical Decision Making in Children with Problematic Sexual Behavior

Shel Millington, MA, LPC

Amanda Mitten, MA, LPC



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