

Contextualizing Early-Onset Behavior Disorders

Child Development for District Court Judges Program

UNC School of Government

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

1:30-2:30 pm

Overview

- Terms
- Prevalence
- Cost
- Early-onset risk
- Prevention and early intervention
- Role of family court judges and resources



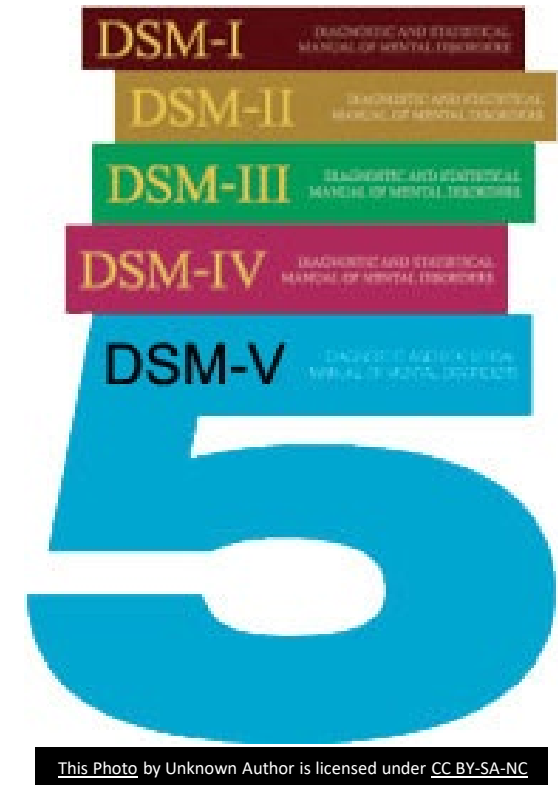
Behavior Disorders

Diagnosis (DSM-V TR):

- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)
- Conduct Disorder (CD)

Clinically-significant symptoms (e.g., ECBI):

- 36-items
- 2 to 16 years old
- Problem Subscale (Range 0-36; Clinical Range ≥ 15)
- Intensity Subscale (Range 36-252; Clinical Range ≥ 131)



Prevalence

Estimated ~ 8 million U.S youth (16%)

Behavior disorders can co-occur (e.g., ADHD and ODD)

Comorbid (e.g., symptoms of depression, anxiety)

e.g., August et al., 1996; Larson et al., 2011; Merikangas et al., 2009

Range of Affective & Behavioral Symptoms

Inattention

Hyperactivity

Irritability

Oppositionality

Noncompliance

Rule Breaking

Lying

Aggression



Early-Onset
(3 to 8 y.o.)
BDs

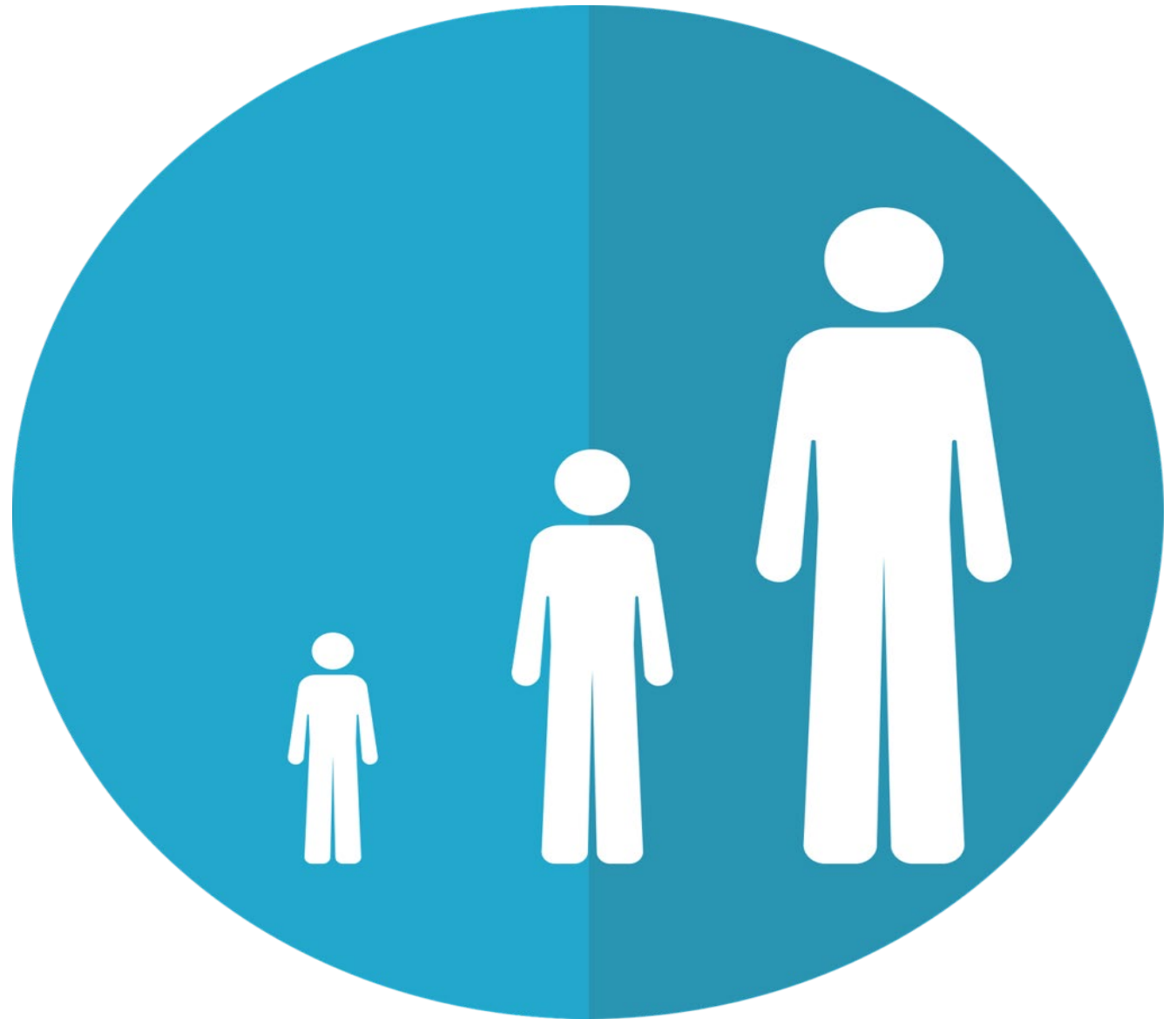


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(e.g., bridge model, Shaw & Bell, 1993; cascade model, Dodge et al., 2009; early onset, Moffitt et al., 2008)

Protracted Course

- Childhood
- Adolescence
- Adulthood

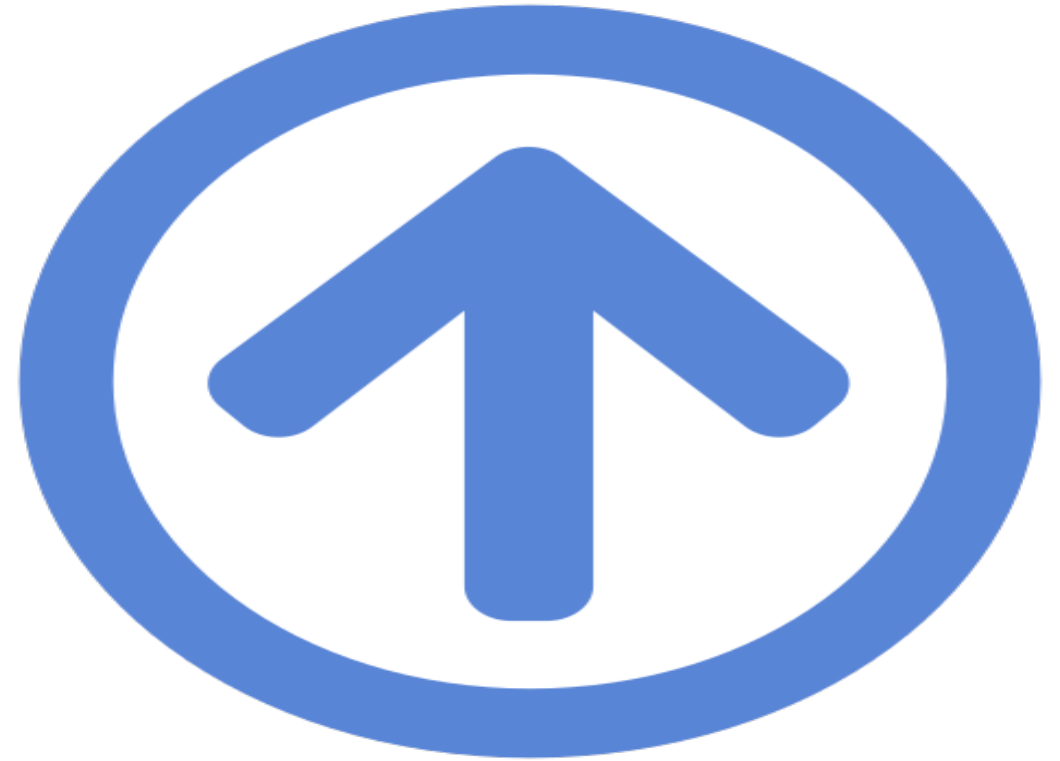


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(e.g., Burke et al., 2014; Fergusson et al., 2013; Owens & Hinshaw, 2016)

Increases Susceptibility

- Academic underachievement
- School drop-out
- **Juvenile Delinquency**
- Antisocial Personality Disorder
- Alcohol and Drug Use
- Depression and Anxiety
- Relationship Instability
- Employment Instability
- Physical Health Problems

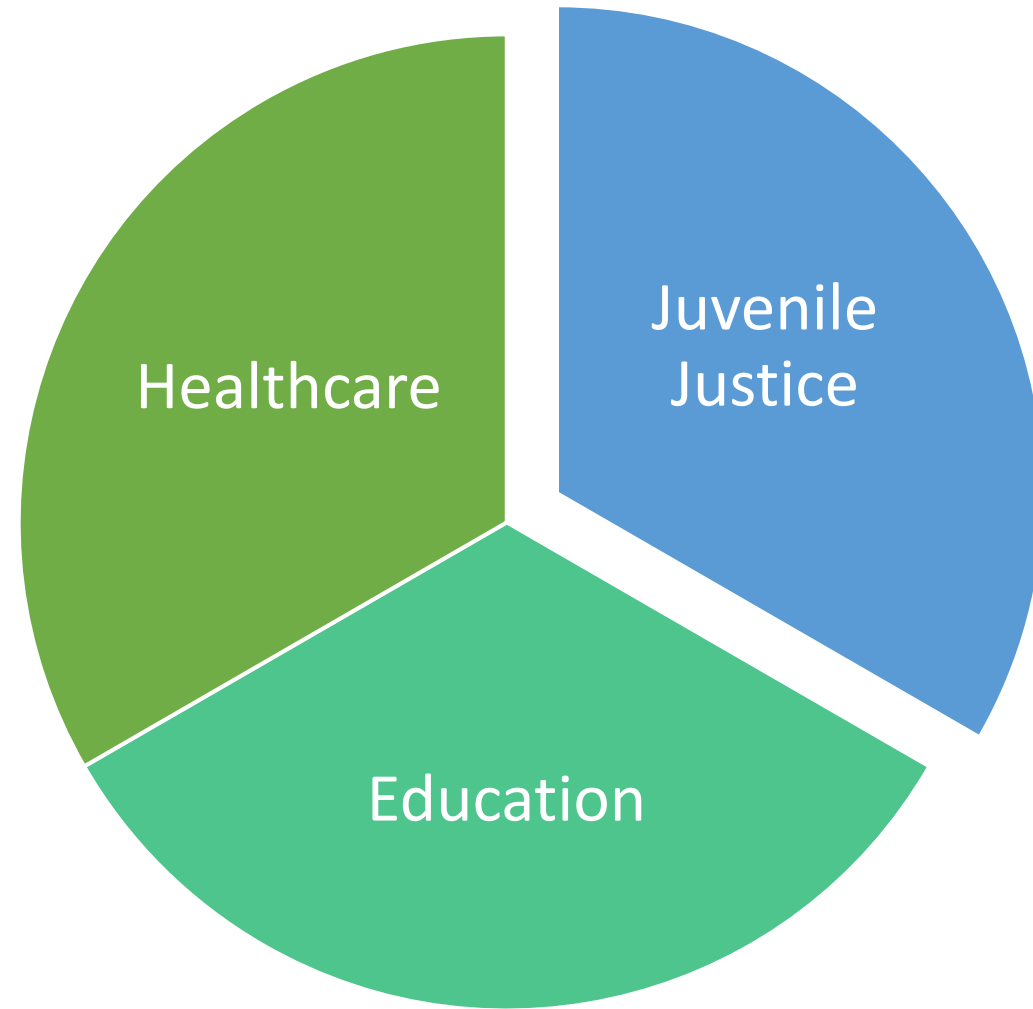


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(e.g., Burke et al., 2014; Fergusson et al., 2013; Owens & Hinshaw, 2016)

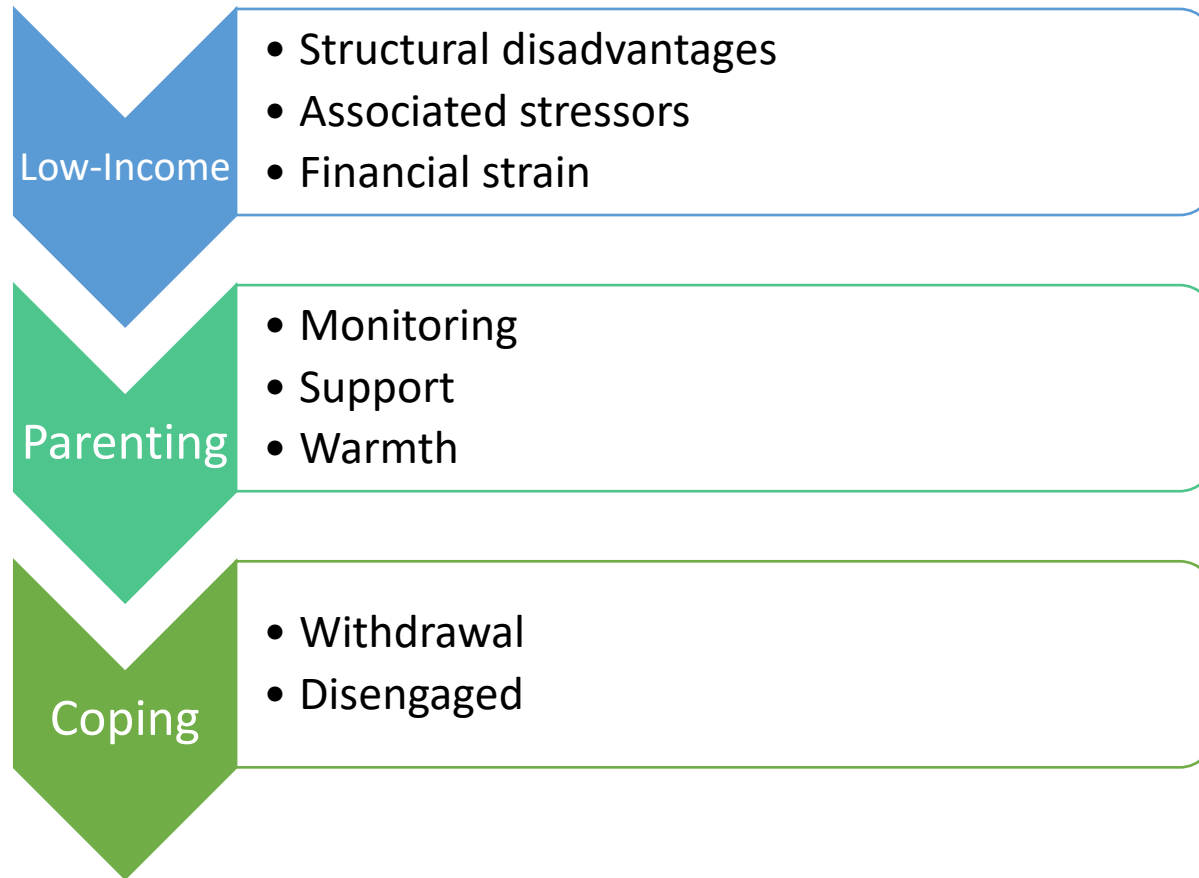
Estimated ten-fold increase in costs for individuals, families, & society

Prevention and early intervention can save \$2.4-4.4 million/high risk child



e.g., Cohen, 1998; Cohen & Piquero, 2009; Pelham et al., 2007; Piquero et al., 2009; Scott et al., 2001

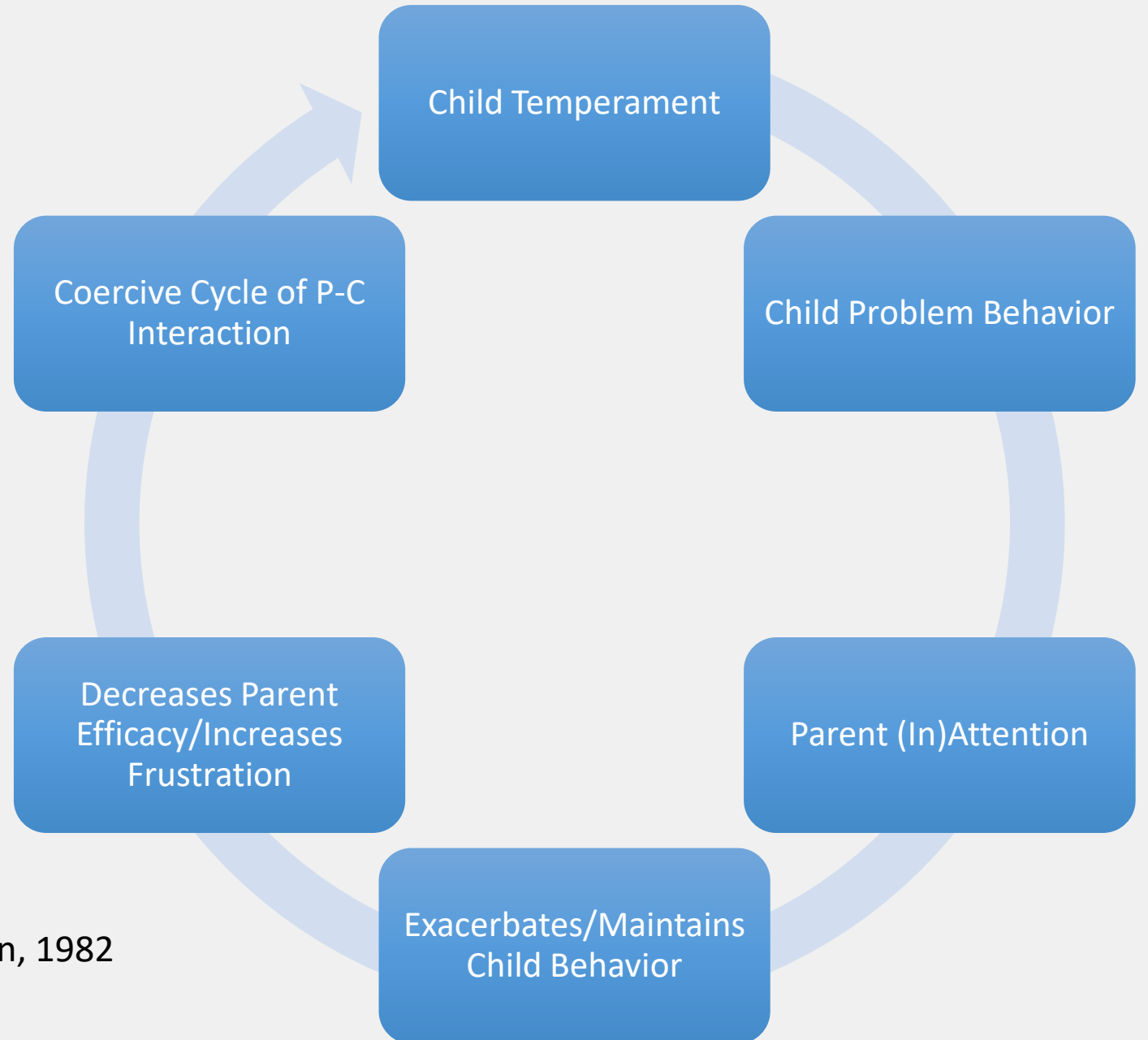
Early Risk Factors: Economic Family Stress Theory



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see Conger & Donellan, 2007 and Wadsworth et al., 2011 for reviews

Coercive Cycle of Parent Child Interaction



e.g., McMahon & Forehand, 2003; Patterson, 1982

Exhibit A: The Grocery Store



Early Intervention “Works”

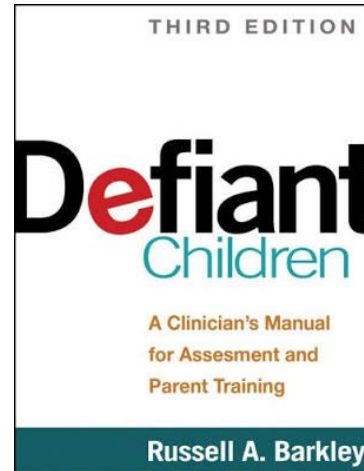
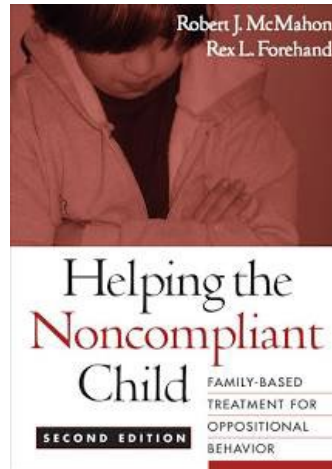
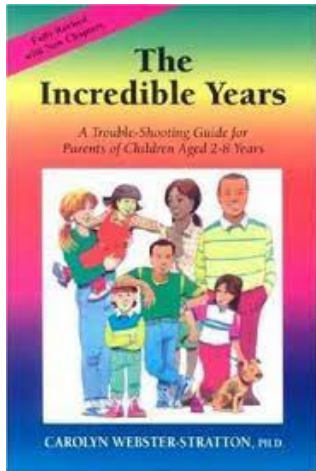


- “Family” of interventions:
 - Behavioral Parent Training
 - Behavioral Parenting Interventions
 - Parent Management Training
- 3 to 8 y.o. children
- Common theory (i.e., target coercive cycle) or target parenting > parent-child relationship > child behavior
- Common elements (e.g., active, skills, practice)
- Individual family (parent-child) or group (parents)
- Improved parenting, parent-child relationship, child behavior
- Problems with access, engagement, & drop-out

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See Kaehler, Jacobs, & Jones, 2016; Reitman & McMahon, 2012; Southam Gerow & Prinstein, 2014 for reviews

Examples of Evidence-Based Programs



(see Chorpita et al., 2011; Lundahl et al., 2006; Shaw, 2013, for reviews)

Common Practice Elements

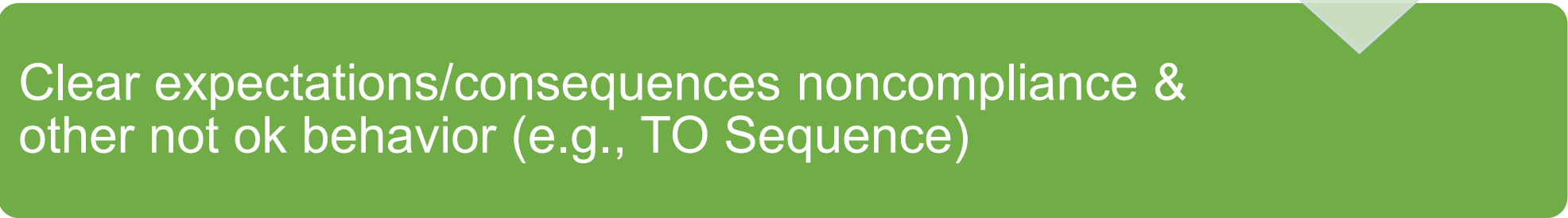
Increase attention “ok” behavior (e.g., Attends, Rewards)



Decrease attention “not ok” behavior (Effortful Ignoring)



Clear expectations/consequences noncompliance & other not ok behavior (e.g., TO Sequence)



Sample Program

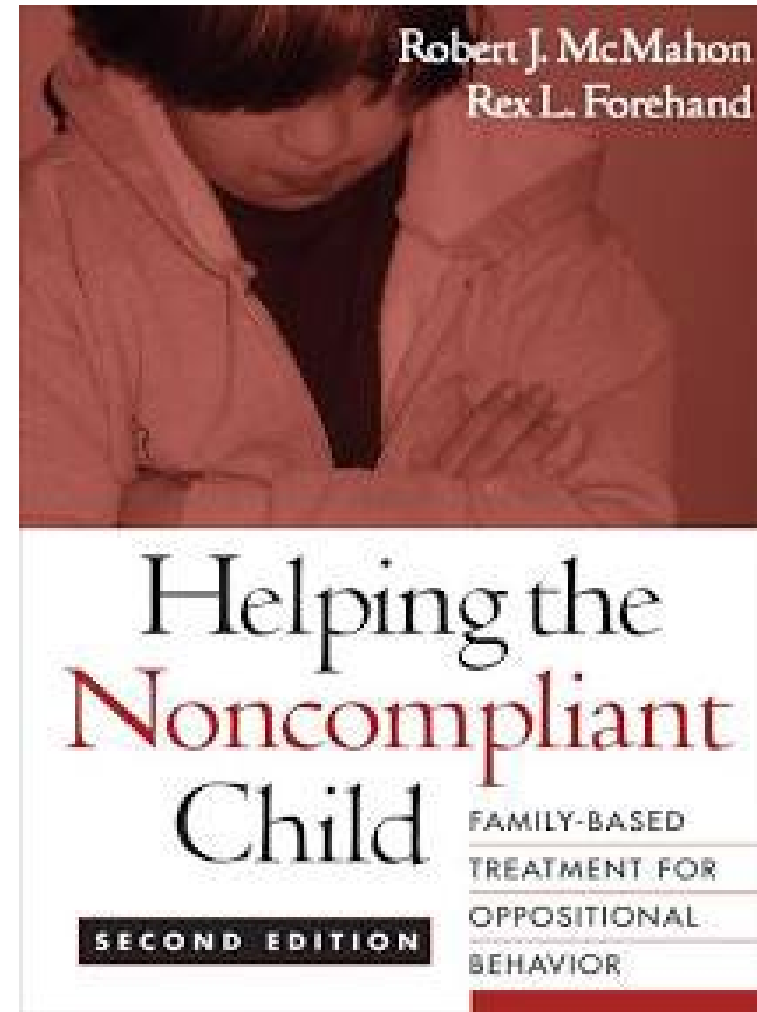
Both parent(s) and child participate

Weekly session, daily home practice,
mid-week check-in

Active, skill-based, collaborative

Mastery-based

8-12 weeks



McMahon & Forehand, 2003

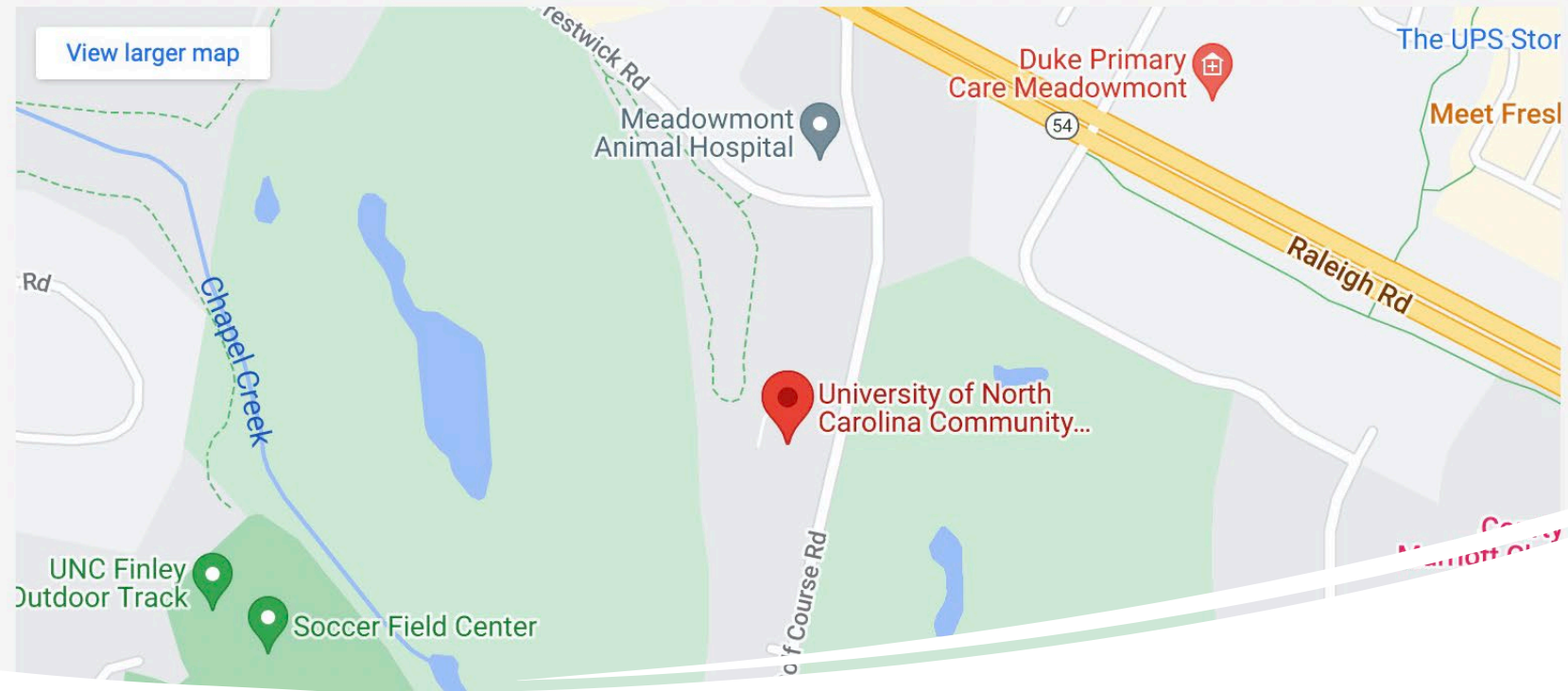
Things for Judges to Consider

- Who?
 - Younger siblings of those in juvenile justice
 - Children involved in custody cases
 - Child maltreatment cases
- What?
 - Referrals for BPT (BPT, PMT)
 - Avoid “judgement” of parents (i.e., “fit”)
- When?
 - As early as possible (3 to 8 years old)



Finley Community Research Center and Clinic

Our Finley clinic, located at 212 Finley Golf Course Road, serves children, couples, and families, and is where we conduct our assessment services.



Sample Resources

- Center for Child and Family Health (Durham)
- Silber Psychological Associates (Cary, Durham, Raleigh)
- Triangle Area Psychology (Durham) - DC
- UNC Dept of Psychology & Neuroscience Clinic (Chapel Hill)

Parent
Self-Help

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THE CLINICALLY PROVEN
FIVE-WEEK PROGRAM FOR PARENTS
OF TWO- TO SIX-YEAR-OLDS

REX FOREHAND, PhD
DEBORAH JONES, PhD
NICHOLAS LONG, PhD



Questions

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