

SF-TIC Assumptions

- “Solution-building” with a child/family is a crucial way of avoiding preventable negative outcomes.
- Most of the time, the “manipulative or controlling person” is feeling very *out* of control, not in charge.
- Many “problem behaviors” are really people’s way of coping or adapting to their situation
- The family and child need developmental support – support of each individual’s personal psychosocial development, and help in acquisition of new skills.
- A *therapeutic* relationship is key. It is:
 - Supportive, respectful, friendly, consistent, non-threatening, strengths-based, consistent with the child’s/family’s developmental abilities and individualized needs, and based on clear expectations and standards.
- A relationship that is “*therapeutic*” does not imply psychotherapy, but that the worker responds in ways of *therapeutic benefit* – developmentally, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally – to the child and family.
- The child and family must trust the worker, the attorney, the professional.
- Behaviors that professionals engage in that are shaming, humiliating, blaming, and disempowering change nothing and reinforce other’s views about us as “not caring, controlling, ignorant, unsafe and incompetent”.

Hodas, G.R. (2006). Responding to childhood trauma: The promise and practice of trauma informed care. *Pennsylvania Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services*

Berg, I., & Kelly, S. (2000). *Building solutions in child protective services*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company,