

TAPESTRY

Adoption & Foster Care Ministry

Practical Realities of Connecting While Correcting

2011 Tapestry Adoption &
Foster Care Conference

The Reality for Our Families

- The reality for most of our families looks something like this:
 - Children who come into your family through adoption or foster care come from “hard places”
 - Most of the common approaches to parenting were not developed with these children in mind
 - You want to help your child heal, but also effectively respond to misbehavior so that your child can learn and grow

What is the Basis for Your Parenting Approach?

- How you were parented growing up
- Advice from friends and family
- What comes “naturally” to you
- What you have been taught is biblical
- What worked with your other (i.e., bio) children

We Were Created to Connect

- From the beginning, we were made for relationships – with God and with others
- Our approach to parenting must always focus first and foremost on people, not parenting methods, techniques, systems or processes

Changing our Focus to Connecting

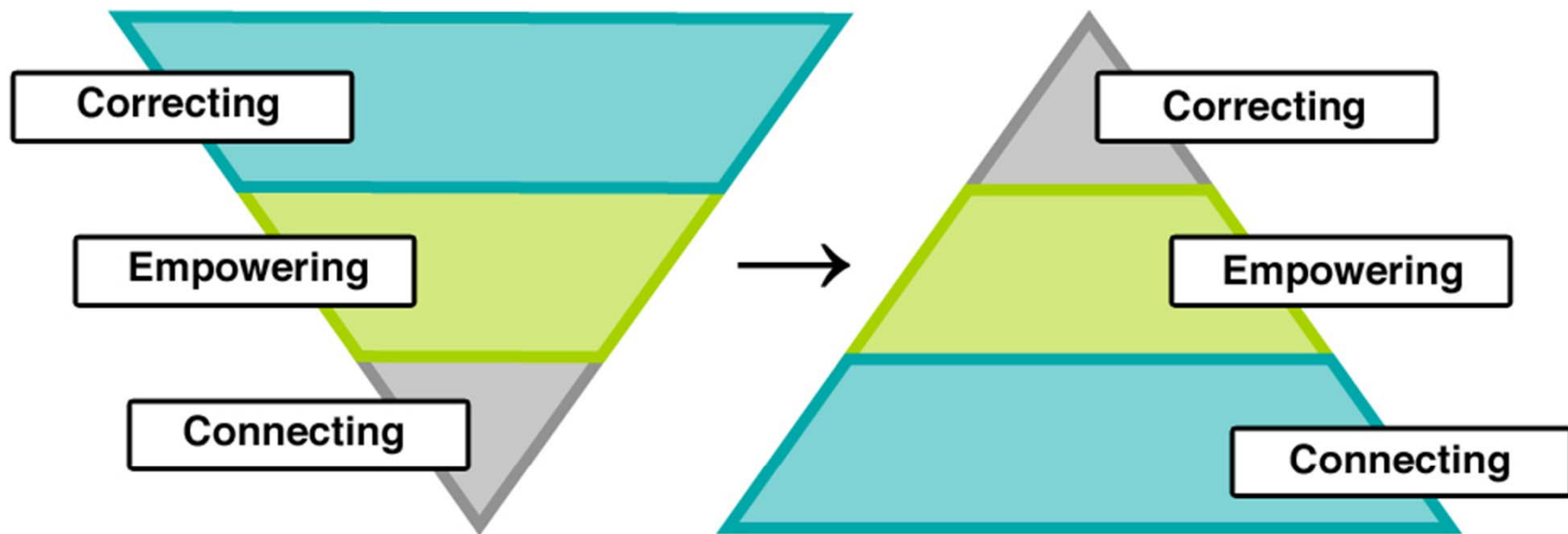
“When we shift our perspective from the outward to the inward, from rules to relationships, our parenting will change.”

-- *Leslie Fields, “Parenting Is Your Highest Calling” and Eight Other Myths That Trap Us in Worry and Guilt*

Train Up a Child

- “Train up *a child* in the way *he* should go...”
Proverbs 22:6
- The focus of discipline in Scripture is training, not punishment
- Discipline cannot be separated from love and relationship (*Hebrews 12 and 1 Cor. 13*)
- Discipline is more effective in the context of connection

Connecting as the Foundation



Keys to Building a Foundation on Connection

- Understand that compassion does not have an “expiration date”
- Give voice to your child
- Embrace the privilege of saying “yes”
- Keep your balance (between structure and nurture)
- Practice making mistakes and repairing them

Strategies To Help You Connect While Correcting

- Playful Engagement
- Choices
- Compromises
- Re-Do's ("Try it again")
- Time-Ins
- IDEAL Response

Levels of Response

- **Level 1:** mild behaviors → attempt to re-direct through playful engagement
 - **Level 2:** moderate behaviors → attempt to re-direct through choice giving
 - **Level 3:** verbally aggressive → attempt to re-direct with “time-in” or “think it over”
 - **Level 4:** physically aggressive → attempt to redirect through interruption of physical aggression

Source: TBRI & Dr. Karyn Purvis

The IDEAL Response

ImmEDIATE

DIRECT

EFFICIENT

ACTION-BASED

LEVELED AT THE BEHAVIOR

And When It's Over...

- Distancing Strategies Outcomes (3 D's)
 - Deferred behavior, waiting to emerge again later
 - Discontentment in parent and child
 - Disconnection between parent and child is deepened
- Connecting Strategies Outcomes (3 C's)
 - Corrected behavior
 - Contentment in parent and child
 - Connection between parent and child is deepened

Source: TBRI & Dr. Karyn Purvis

Our Daily Reminders



Remember, It's a Journey!

- Pray and seek wisdom and understanding, always recognizing your dependence on God
- Decide how you will measure success
- Practice, Practice & More Practice!