

The **Assessment and Decision Making** series

Are the kids OK? Assessing risk while supporting families

All practitioners who work with families, children and young people must have as their focus the safety and well-being of the children. An ability to assess the risk of harm, and to recognise both protective factors and indicators of danger, is crucial. This workshop provides an opportunity for participants to develop their knowledge and skills specific to work with families where the well-being of children is the focus. Participants will have the opportunity to apply core concepts and knowledge to their own practice context. *Who should attend?* Workers providing early intervention and intensive family support services; other family support workers; people who work with young parents and families in crisis.

Applying risk assessment skills in child protection practice

Risk assessment is a foundation skill for effective child protection practice, underpinning all decisions about safety and support. This popular two-day workshop uses evidence-based knowledge to develop participants' understanding of the concepts central to risk assessment in contemporary child protection practice. Beyond a core understanding and skills-base in child protection, this workshop challenges participants to examine how they apply knowledge in practice. Practical exercises, using frameworks which reinforce good quality assessments, enable participants to increase their competence in making comprehensive assessments and defensible decisions. *Who should attend?* Child protection workers in government and community agencies, including investigation and assessment, intensive family support, statutory intervention services, alternative care. Both experienced workers and those newer to the field will benefit.

Finding magic moments – resilience building with young people

What makes a young person more resilient, or more vulnerable, than others, often even within the same family? This one-day workshop focuses on recognising the opportunities to 'really make a difference' in the lives of highly vulnerable young people. Issues impacting vulnerability and resilience and the implications for youth-work practice are explored. Participants are supported to integrate information from key bodies of knowledge (such as attachment theory and developmental theory) and to apply it effectively in everyday practice in working with, protecting and supporting vulnerable young people.

Safety and security – making tough decisions re sexual abuse

Judgements about the safety needs of children in families where sexual abuse is alleged, or has occurred outside the family, can be extraordinarily difficult to make. This one-day workshop considers the many factors to be assessed in arriving at a defensible decision, within a framework which integrates both knowledge of the dynamics of families affected by sexual abuse and the sometimes conflicting needs of children and young people.

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