

Understanding Poverty and Ne Building Bridges to Support Families They Are



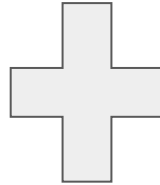
2025 ISHN Conference

Meet Your Presenters



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Definitions

Poverty

Poverty is generally defined as the state of having insufficient resources or income to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, education, and healthcare.

Culture

Culture refers to the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviors, and artifacts that characterize a group or society. It shapes how people think, communicate, and interact with one another and their environment.

Definitions

SES

Socioeconomic Status (SES) refers to an individual's or group's social and economic position in relation to others, based on a combination of factors such as income, education, and occupation.

Why Are We Here?

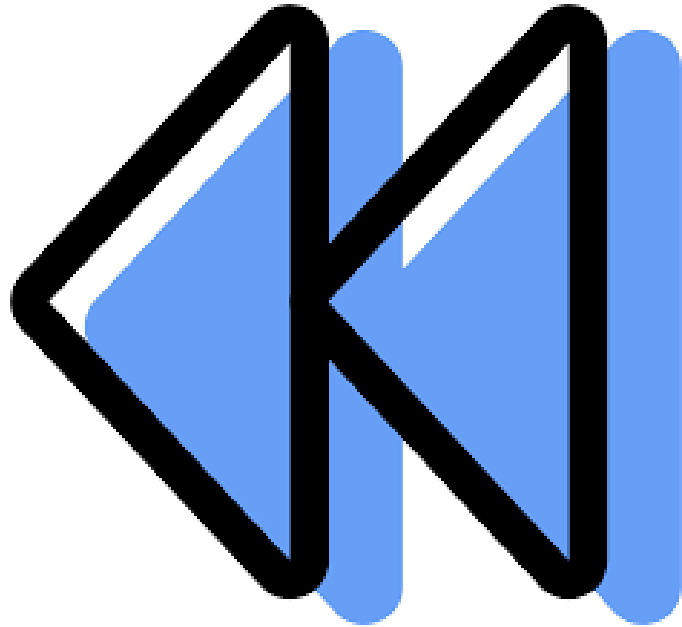


What Do We Want For Our Students?

Happy Loved Cared For



Let's Rewind to Our Definit



Definitions

 Happy

 Loved

 Cared For

But What If...

Our Definition  Their Definition



This is where I found
myself and when
trying to support one
of my families.



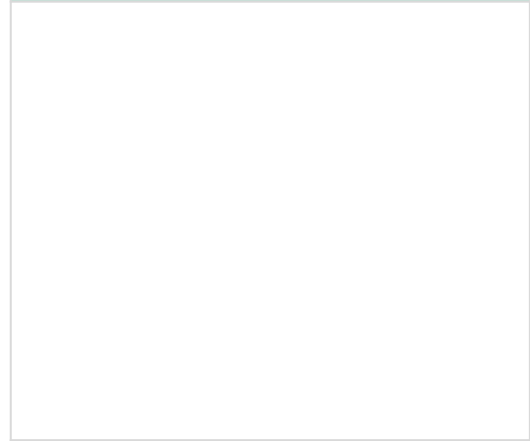
Let's Meet The Smiths*

The Smiths moved into our school just before spring break last school year, They are a blended family of 2 parents, 6 children, & 13 animals in the house.

What do we notice about them at school?

- Often come in wearing the same clothes
- Often come in stinky
- Students report sleep in the rooms together and with animals
- Behind in school and/or struggling with heightened emotionality & ADHD
- Students report a struggle within the home to keep up with housework & laundry
- Students shoes have holes in them or do not fit properly
- One of the students asks for extra snack every day

The Smiths



Assumptions?

Operation Fix Everything





Operation Fix Everything

Family Reaction



The Disconnect

What was said:

We had your kids change clothes so they had fresh new ones

We are sending home extra food since it sounds like you need some!

It is usually best if you set a routine at home so the kids can get some sleep.

We would like to do testing on your students to see if they need an IEP

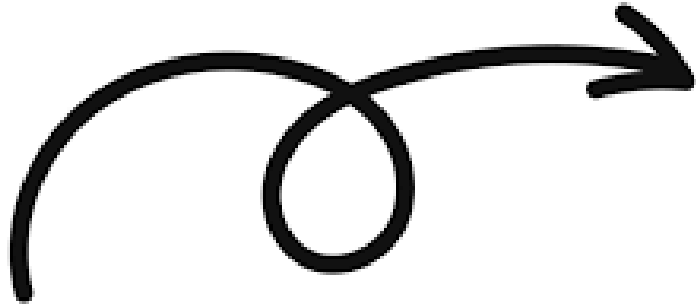
What was heard:

You sent your kids in dirty clothes and that is a reflection of your parenting.

Apparently, you cannot keep your kids fed at home.

Your kids must be running wild at home with not structure and no sleep.

You are stupid and so are your kids.

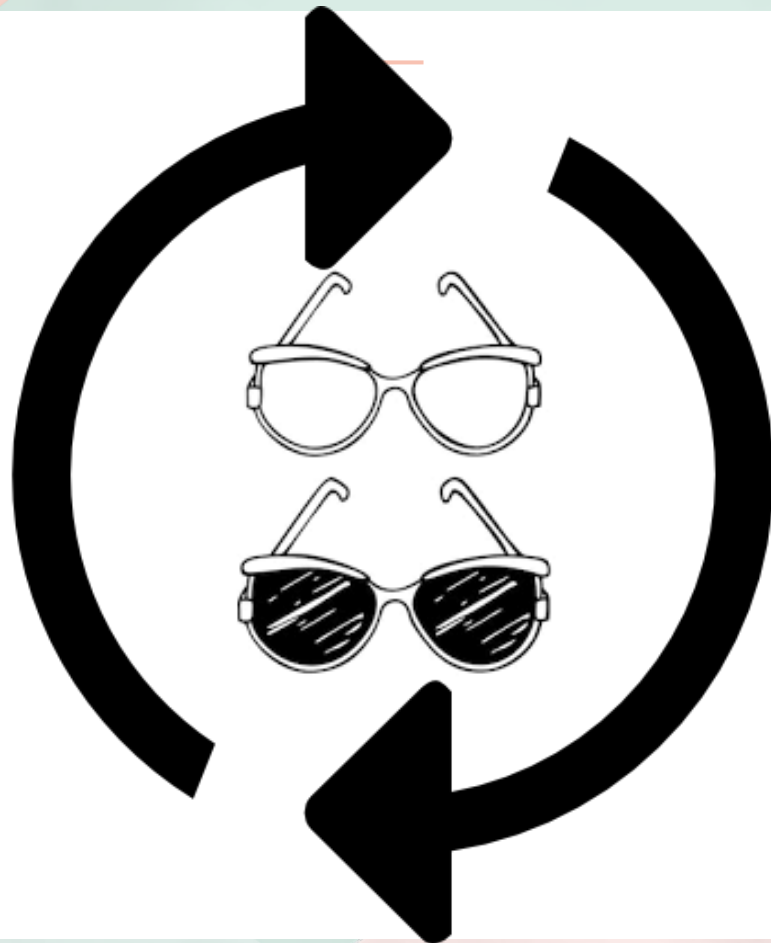


Which Led To:

Hurt feelings

Mistrust

Not much progress for
students



Perspective That Needed to Ch

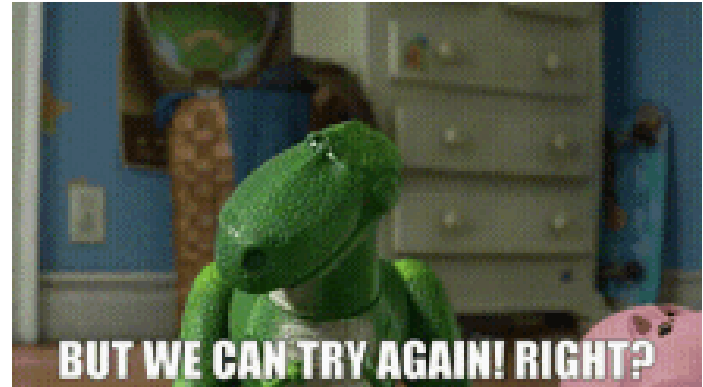
Opening with empathy

Focus on listening to the family

Recognizing their perspective & culture

Respect the families autonomy while supporting their needs

Acknowledge the difference in definitions of our 3 key words



Implementing Strategies in a School System



- Policies
- Procedures
- Professional Development

District Policies

REPORTING
VS
SUPPORTING

REPORTING
EDUCATION

BODY SAFETY

Procedures

▲ DCS Reporting



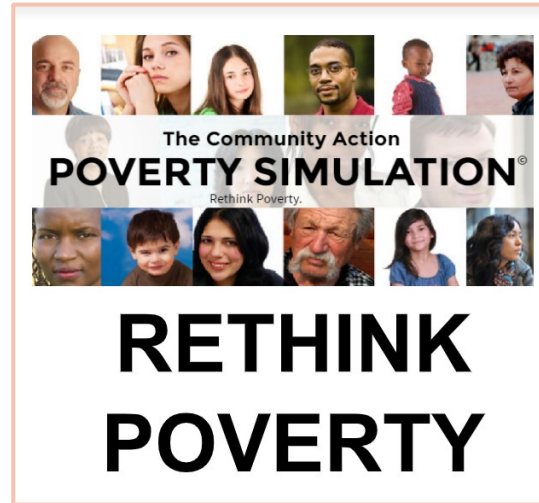
▲ Mental Health



▲ Resource Support



Professional Development



THANKS!

Do you have any questions?

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RESOURCES

- Poverty Simulation- <https://www.povertysimulation.net/about/>