How Attitudes and Approaches Shape the Relationship

Introduction
Many adults struggle in their parental roles and with the tremendous responsibility that raising children encompasses. Their outlook as caretakers can perpetually shift. Feeling inadequate parenting stemming from parental behavior can provide parents with support and guidance to assist them in their parental roles. Parents receive social work services through many different ways, including voluntary and involuntary means. The need to support parents as a means of supporting their children has also been documented (Alameda-Lawson, Lawson, 2010, Bloomfield, L., Kendall, S., Apelin, L., Atazarashe, V., Deenley, K., Edwards, L., 2003). A social worker’s approach and attitude towards parents can greatly influence their participation in services, as well as, their success.

Professional Attitudes & Approach
Parents receive social work services through many different ways, including voluntary and involuntary means. The mode in which a parent is introduced to social work services can be a key factor in how the parent views the social worker’s guidance. For example, parents may be more open to revealing feelings when they initiate services through a private practice and may be less open when mandated to receive social work services through the child welfare system.

Research has also shown that the mode in which the parent is introduced to social work services influences the social workers’ attitudes. Attitudes towards interactions...
What Social Workers Can Do
ADOPT A NON-JUDGMENTAL ATTITUDE: Social workers are professionally obligated to maintain a high standard of professional conduct as prescribed in the NASW Code of Ethics. Assuming parents are doing their best and reminding oneself to remain non-judgmental and supportive can be beneficial to the professional relationship and healing process.

CONSULT WITH SUPERVISORS OR SOCIAL WORK COLLEAGUES: Social workers often benefit from receiving clinical guidance and supervision from someone who is not directly involved with a client. This kind of support can help social workers process feelings of judgment, countertransference, and other issues.

KEEP UP TO DATE ON RESOURCES AND RESEARCH: New information and research are consistently available to social workers to enhance their practice. Acquiring additional knowledge and techniques throughout practice can benefit a social worker’s influence and process. Research is constantly evolving and updating evidence-informed practices which are often required for funding. Social workers can gain this information from online resources, professional affiliations, and professional journals.

Social Work is the premiere journal of the social work profession. Widely read by practitioners, faculty, and students, it is the official journal of NASW and is provided to all members as a membership benefit. Social Work is dedicated to improving practice and advancing knowledge in social work and social welfare.

NASWPress.org/publications/journals/sw.html

References

Conclusion
Social workers are often viewed as agents of change and through the many roles social workers play, there are countless opportunities to help parents feel confident in their roles. Research has shown that social workers have both positive and negative influences through their work with parents. Regardless of the reason a parent is involved with services, it is a core value of the social work profession to value and respect that person and their role as a parent. Therefore, it can be beneficial to approach any parent in a supportive manner. A positive approach can also be advantageous to the emotional welfare of the children involved, in that, children will see the adults working together in a constructive way.

Resources
The NASW Code of Ethics is a guide to the professional conduct of social workers and summarizes the social work profession’s mission and core values.

SocialWorkers.org/pubs/codes/default.asp

Help Starts Here is a website where social workers offer tips for parents, educators, and young adults regarding a variety of topics including “Healthy Parenting.”

HelpStartsHere.org/kids-families/healthy-parenting


NASWPress.org/publications/children/parent-effect.html


Toxey, J. E. (2008). Assuming parents are doing their best while reminding oneself to remain non-judgmental and supportive of change can be beneficial to the professional relationship and healing process.

The mode in which a parent is introduced to social work services can be a key factor in how the parent views the social worker’s guidance.
A social worker’s approach and attitude towards parents can greatly influence their participation in services, as well as their success.

Social workers’ roles with parents can be complex and at times, unclear, when providing services to both parents and children. Many times, children have been removed from parental custody as a result of parental behaviors that are detrimental to their health and well-being. In these situations, parents not only experience the loss of their child from the home, but also are left with ambiguity regarding their parental role. Parents involved in the child welfare system have described feeling disempowered, isolated, and at times, unclear, when providing services to children involved, in that, children will see the adults working together in a constructive way.

What Social Workers Can Do

Social workers are professionally obligated to maintain a high standard of professional conduct as prescribed in the NASW Code of Ethics. Assuming parents are doing their best while reminding oneself to remain non-judgmental and supportive of change can be beneficial to the professional relationship and healing process. Social workers often express the need to maintain a high standard of professional conduct. Social workers are professional obligations to parents. Regardless of the reason a parent is involved, in that, children will see the adults working together in a constructive way.

Social workers are often viewed as agents of change and through the many roles social workers play, there are countless opportunities to help parents feel confident in their roles. Research has shown that social workers have both positive and negative influences through their work with parents. Regardless of the reason a parent is involved with services, it is a core value of the social work profession to value and respect that person and their role as a parent. Therefore, it can be beneficial to approach any parent in a supportive manner. A positive approach can also be advantageous to the emotional welfare of the children involved, in that, children will see the adults working together in a constructive way.

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The mode in which a parent is introduced to social work services can be a key factor in how the parent views the social worker’s guidance.
Introduction

Many adults struggle in their parental roles and with the tremendous responsibility that raising children encompasses. Their outlook as caretakers can perpetually shift. Feeling competent and well-suited in the role of being a parent can vacillate to feeling overwhemed and defeated by children’s responses and behaviors. This fluctuation is often a normal part of raising children. Their outlook as parents can provide parents with support and guidance to assist them in their parental roles. Historically, much of social work’s focus has been on the potentially detrimental effects on children of inadequate parenting stemming from parental behavioral health issues (Ackerson, 2003; Forrest, McCambridge, Waisbein, & Rollnick, 2008). The need to support parents as a means of supporting their children has also been documented (Alameda-Lawson, Lawson & Ralovich, 2010; Bloomfield, L., Kendall, S., Applin, L., Altazadeh, V., & Dearyle, K., 2003). A social worker’s approach and attitude towards parents can greatly influence their participation in services, as well as, their success.

Professional Attitudes & Approach

Parents receive social work services through many different ways, including voluntary and involuntary means. The mode in which a parent is introduced to social work can be a key factor in how the parent views the social worker’s guidance. For example, parents may be more open to revealing feelings when they initiate services through a private practice and may be less open when parents who come into contact with social workers are compromised in their ability to transferal in parenthood. Because parents are many different ways, including voluntary and involuntary means of supporting their children has also been documented (Alameda-Lawson, Lawson & Ralovich, 2010; Bloomfield, L., Kendall, S., Applin, L., Altazadeh, V., & Dearyle, K., 2003). A social worker’s approach and attitude towards parents can greatly influence their participation in services, as well as, their success.

Typically, when working with parents, social workers’ primary concerns reside with the best interest of the children involved. Historically, much of social work’s focus has been on the potentially detrimental effects on children of inadequate parenting stemming from parental behavioral health issues (Ackerson, 2003; Forrest, McCambridge, Waisbein, & Rollnick, 2008). The need to support parents as a means of supporting their children has also been documented (Alameda-Lawson, Lawson & Ralovich, 2010; Bloomfield, L., Kendall, S., Applin, L., Altazadeh, V., & Dearyle, K., 2003). A social worker’s approach and attitude towards parents can greatly influence their participation in services, as well as, their success.

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