

Assessment Factors Associated with Child Maltreatment

Your Notes

Please use the following handout as a structured note-taking guide during small group discussion and the report-out of these factors by other groups.

Psycho-Social Factors Highly Correlated With Maltreatment

1. Parents who have low self-esteem and feel unloved, worthless
2. Parents who have an inability to trust
3. Parents who are preoccupied with meeting their own emotional needs
4. Parents who expect the child to validate their self-esteem
5. Parents who have an inability to regulate their emotions
6. Parents who have misperceptions, unrealistic expectations and lack of empathy for their children

7. Parents who use coercive power to manage their children's behavior

8. Parents who are developmentally immature and have poorly-developed parenting skills

B. Child Characteristics

1. Children who are inherently vulnerable to maltreatment

2. Children who are perceived as different, difficult to care for, abnormal or defective

C. Environmental Factors

1. Stress and crisis in the family

2. Poverty

3. Absence of social supports and resources

4. Domestic Violence

D. Family Characteristics

E. Parental Conditions that Impair Parenting

1. Substance abuse
2. Mental illness
3. Mental retardation

Some final thoughts