

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO HAVE ENGAGED IN SEXUALLY HARMING BEHAVIOURS



Radius Child & Youth Services™
PREVENTION • INTERVENTION • RESEARCH
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General Description

Providing clinical services to children and youth who have engaged in sexually harming behaviours is a prevention strategy. It is essential to have a developmental and trauma-informed lens when working with these children and youth. The training is designed to provide the specialized skills and knowledge to clinicians who wish to provide clinical services to children and youth who have engaged in sexually harming behaviours.

Guiding Principles

There are specific guidelines and practices for providing assessment and treatment services to children and youth who have engaged in sexually harming behaviours (ATSA Guidelines 2017, ATSA Task Force report, 2006). In addition, there are principles for working with children and youth who have sexually harmed within a family context. The following is a summary of the guiding principles for this specialized work:

Children who engage in concerning sexual behaviours are qualitatively different from adolescents who offend sexually, and both are different from adults

Each child and youth is unique, and no one set of characteristics or profile exists

Safety is paramount: decisions regarding placement, safety plans are fluid and case specific

Assessment driven treatment interventions are uniquely matched to developmental age, strengths, needs, and challenges

Parental involvement is important to support the work

Children and youth tend to respond well to treatment and recidivism rates are low

Practice based evidence is used to design interventions to promote healthy development

Risk tools are not to be used for predictive purposes

When sexual abuse happens within a family context, everyone is impacted and the process for contact, communication, and reunification are victim driven

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Prerequisites

Advanced clinical training requires prerequisite knowledge and experience that is generally attained in a Master’s level program or equivalent. An understanding of the foundational theories that inform the work, including child and adolescent development, attachment, trauma, neuroscience and resiliency. While many, but not all children and youth who engaged in harmful sexual behaviours also have a history of adverse childhood experiences, it is recommended that clinicians have a prior foundation of knowledge, skills, and experience working with children and youth who have experienced trauma.

Program Offerings

Radius Training Institute has developed a number of modules or topic areas that address an understanding, assessment and treatment of children and youth who have engaged in sexually harming behaviours. They can be combined or offered as separate trainings. A list of the detailed descriptions of the offerings is available for:

Assessment and Treatment of children under 12 engaged in concerning sexual behavior

Assessment and Treatment of youth who have engaged in sexually harming behaviours

Sibling sexual abuse: assessment, treatment and reunification



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