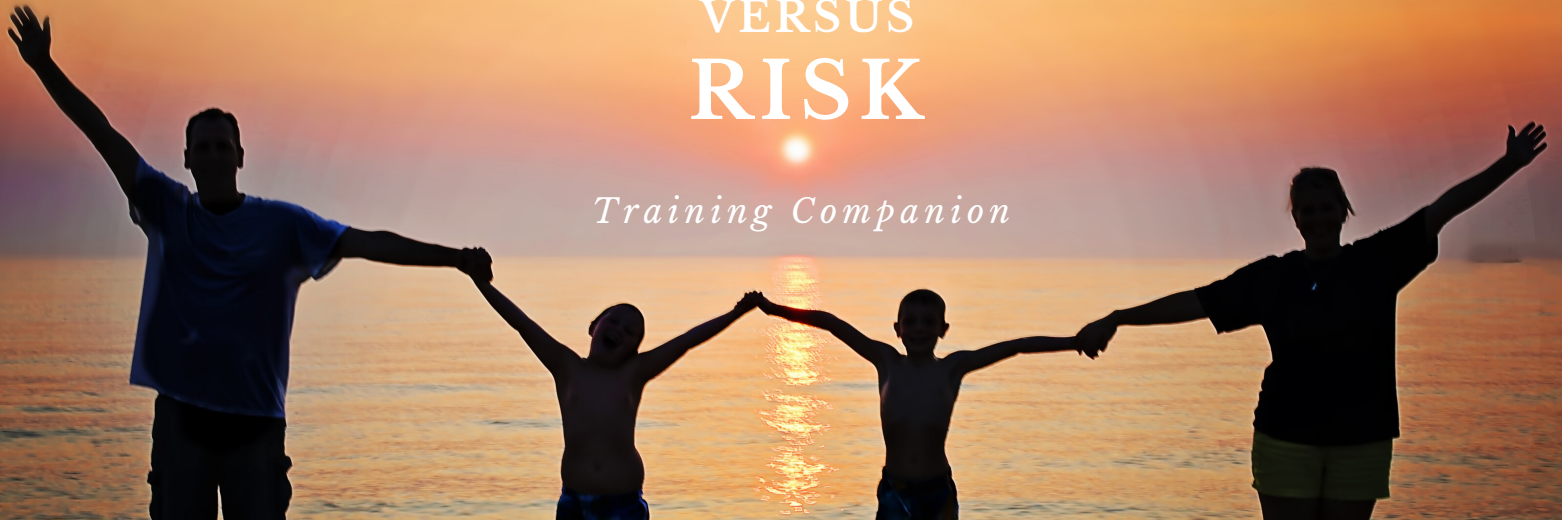


DANGER VERSUS RISK

Training Companion



DANGER DOES NOT EQUAL REMOVAL

Danger does signal for immediate action by the Department of Human Services.

The presence of danger in a case:

- Demands consultation with your supervisor
- Requires the development of a Safety Plan
- May require the development of an Action Plan
- May be more effectively resolved by the worker presenting the case to a Child Safety Conference or during group supervision

Risk is the likelihood of future involvement with child protection.

All families have risk. The identification of risk factors help us determine the focus of the change process and issues that will impact successful interventions. Our new risk assessment and re-assessment tools will help us to make more informed decisions.



DANGER VERSUS RISK WITHIN THE FAMILY FIRST CONTEXT

The overarching goals of Family First are to keep families together and decrease the traumatic impact of DHS involvement on children and families. We'll get there in part by redefining danger versus risk AND engaging families.

The new Safety Assessment and Safety Plan, along with the new Risk Assessment, will emphasize this shift in language and help you better determine service needs. Planning interventions and services that address threats of danger will decrease the likelihood for a family to re-enter the child welfare system. This shift in practice connects directly to the implementation of Solution Based Casework.



Three Tenets of Family First

- Family First is better for kids
- Less trauma means shorter case length and more successful outcomes in the long run
- Keep children safe with their parents, not from their parents

The questions below can be used during both individual and group supervision, during staffings, Family Team Decision Making Meetings, and at Child Safety Conferences.



1. What can be done to remove the danger instead of the child?
2. Can someone the child/family knows move into the home to remove the danger?
3. Can the caregiver and child go live with relatives or fictive kin?
4. Can the child move temporarily to live with a relative or fictive kin?
5. When checking our practice, are we thinking of how to minimize the negative impacts on the child(ren)?
6. How can we best utilize the family in planning and the prevention of removal?
7. What are we doing to assist the family in reducing their level of risk?
8. Describe the risk factors versus the protective capacities. What can be done to increase these protective capacities to lower the risk factors in the long run?
9. What do you anticipate as barriers to implementation of these concepts with the families and other partners?