



SIGNS OF SAFETY FRAMEWORK

THREE CORE PRINCIPLES

Child protection practice and culture tends toward paternalism whenever the professional adopts the position that they know what is wrong in the lives of families, and they know what the solutions are to those problems.

The Signs of Safety approach seeks to create a more constructive culture around child protection organisation and practice.

1

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Constructive working relationships between professionals and family members, and between professionals themselves, are the heart and soul of effective practice in situations where children suffer abuse and neglect.

2

THINKING CRITICALLY, FOSTERING A STANCE OF INQUIRY

As soon as the professional decides they know the truth about a given situation this begins to fracture working relationships with other professionals and family members, all of whom very likely hold different positions.

The single most important factor in minimising errors (in child protection practice) is to admit that you may be wrong (Munro 2008:125).

3

LANDING GRAND ASPIRATIONS IN EVERYDAY PRACTICE

Finding and documenting practitioner and clients' descriptions of what on-the-ground good practice with complex and challenging cases looks like is a key to learning.