

Teaching Notes for *Parenting with Intellectual Difficulties*
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Slide 1

This lecture identifies the stresses, lack of support, and current policy framework that surrounds parenting with an intellectual difficulty. This lecture should be used in a class that focuses on policy issues or a class that incorporates the needs of special populations.

Slide 2

Discussion Question:

Before we begin exploring parenting with an intellectual difficulty, what is your feeling about the issue? Should people with intellectual difficulties be encouraged to raise their children?

Slide 3

Discussion Question:

Historically, we have not allowed women with intellectual difficulties parent children. How do you feel this fits with the NASW Code of Ethics?

Slide 4

Discussion Question:

Could anyone give examples of how socioeconomic status, emotional resources, social resources and relationships to the larger community influence parenting?

Slide 5

Discussion Question:

Have the class divide into groups of 4-5 students and discuss what issues might surround the life circumstances of Mother's with Intellectual Disabilities. What would count as a crisis in her life? How would Mental Illness be debilitating for her? What kind of discrimination might she encounter? How will poverty have an effect on her family? What kind of violence would you associate with Intellectual Disabilities?

Slide 6

Discussion Question:

Looking at this list what did the groups miss as an identified crisis? What did the groups come up with that is not on the list?

Slide 7 and 8

Discussion Question:

Do you feel that poverty might have a different effect on women with Intellectual Disabilities? Why or why not?

Slide 9

Group Project/ Research Assignment

Have the class either break into groups of 3-4 or work individually. Research the policy that created Supplemental Security Income and Disability Income. Compare and contrast the two? Are they used together? What percent of the population receives this form of income? How do you qualify and access funding?

Slide 11

Discussion Question:

How would you go about helping a client with Intellectual Disabilities access employment? What needs to be considered if your client is a parent?

Slide 12, 13 and 14

Discussion Question:

Have the groups from Slide 5 discuss how they feel that these slide do or do not depict the issue of abuse that they discussed in their groups.

Slide 15

Discussion Question:

Have the groups from Slide 5 discuss how they feel that these slide do or do not depict the issue of Mental Illness associated with ID parenting that they discussed in their groups.

Slide 17

Discussion Question:

Looking at the historical opposition and the current opposition to parenting with an intellectual disability do you feel that professionally we have come very far? How does this line up with the Strengths Perspective of Social Work? What kind of argument could you make supporting parents with Intellectual Disabilities keeping their children?

Slides 18, 19, 20 and 21

Discussion Question:

In light of areas of research what kind of programs could be developed around this research to provide support to parents with Intellectual Disabilities?

Slide 25

Group Project or Individual Research

Have the class break into groups of 3-4 or individually research the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act and Family Preservation. What is the historical context in which these programs were established? What kind of advantages do these programs give persons with Intellectual Disabilities? In what ways do these programs not provide protection for person's with Intellectual Disabilities? How could we as Social Workers use these programs to help advocate for those with Intellectual Disabilities?

Slide 28

Group Project:

Divide class into groups of 4-5 and have students design a program that addresses either the needs at the societal level or needs at the family level. What would need to be considered when designing a program? How would your program make a difference?