

Thriving Through Turbulence: The Ecology of At Risk Youth

30th Reclaiming Youth Seminars
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Mark Freado

Growing Edge Training, LLC & Reclaiming Youth at Risk

Emotional disturbance is not inherent
in a child but rather a condition that
arises from a discordant ecology

Nicholas Hobbs, renowned psychologist. Professor and Provost
at Vanderbilt University.

Principal developer of Project Re-ED

The Many Faces of At-Risk Young People

- Obvious signs of stress
- Aggression
- Emotional Dysregulation
- Withdrawal
- Self Harm
- School problems
- Juvenile justice involvement





The Circle in Six Directions





Meeting developmental needs is essential for optimal growth.

URIE
BRONFENBRENNER
1979

1. A strong, caring bond
2. Increasingly complex tasks
3. Shifting power to the learner
4. A relationship of reciprocity

Attachment
Achievement
Autonomy
Altruism



Youth as Expert

Traditional Assessment

Youth as object of assessment

Focus on deficit and disorder

Key data from formal tests

Formulate a diagnostic label

Restorative Assessment

Youth as expert collaborator

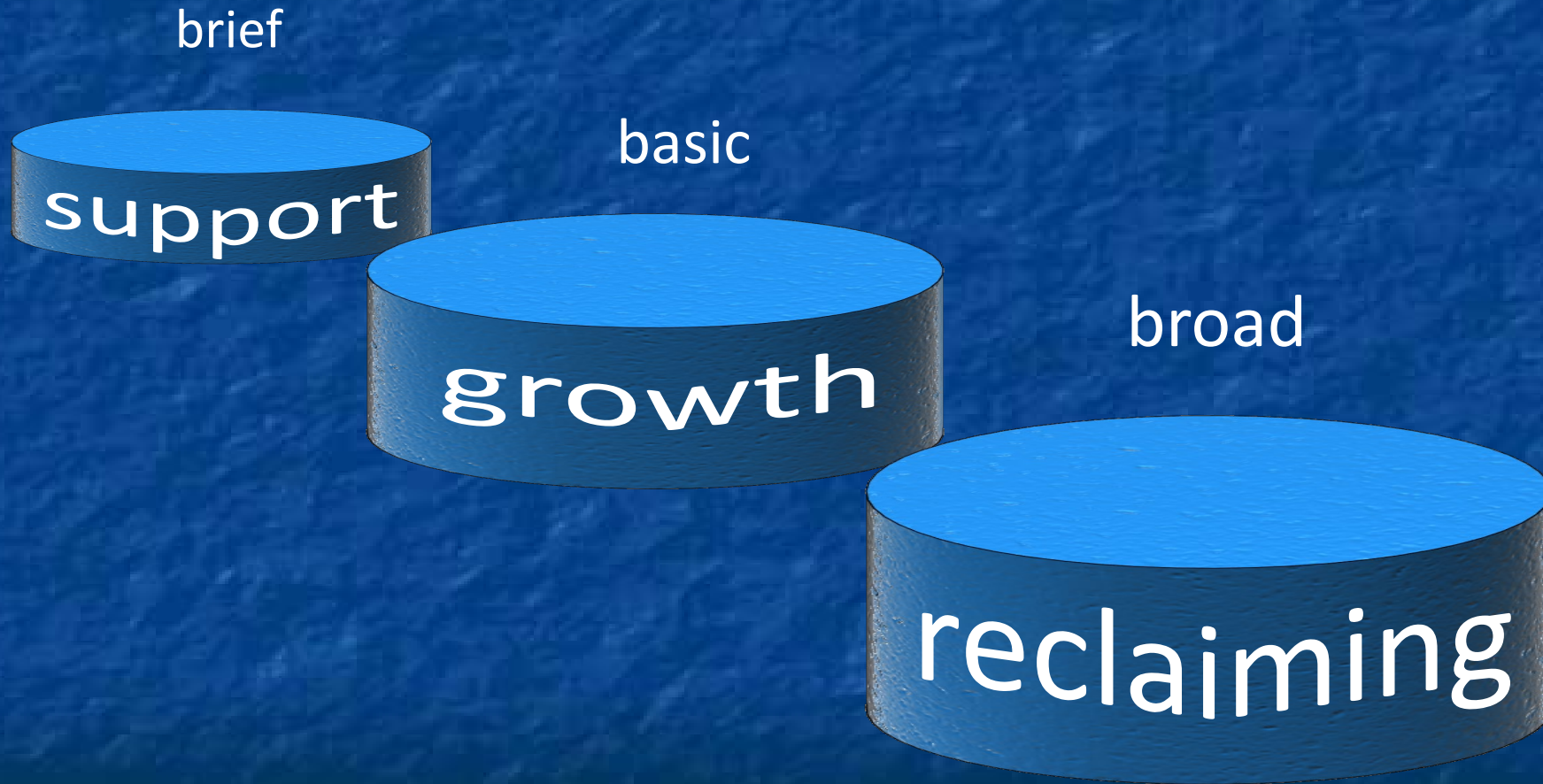
Focus on strength and resilience

Key data from real life events

Formulate a growth plan

Depth and Spread of Assessment

Expanding to Meet the Need



Relate

Reflect

Restore



The PRO Assessment Process



Cultural Trauma Assessment

MARTIN BROKENLEG
2012

An Ecology for Growth



When their needs are met, children thrive.

URIE BRONFENBRENNER



But when needs are unmet, youth are at risk.



OUTSIDE KID

Behavior

Logic

Emotions

INSIDE KID



Jenard Sharp
DOB: July 2, 1975
Incarcerated: 1993
Paroled: April 2022



Jenard Sharp
DOB: July 2, 1975
Incarcerated: 1993
Paroled: April 2022
Employed by General
Motors in Detroit



Jesson

- The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places.

Ernest Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms

- I'm not going to sit around the rez and drink my life away.
Jesson N. May 1, 2024

Jesson will graduate from Little Red River School
September 13, 2024

Life is to be lived now, not in the
past, and lived in the future
only as a present challenge..

Nicholas Hobbs