

Putting the Pieces Together: Enhancing Prevention & Treatment for Youth with Developmental Disabilities and on the Autism Spectrum

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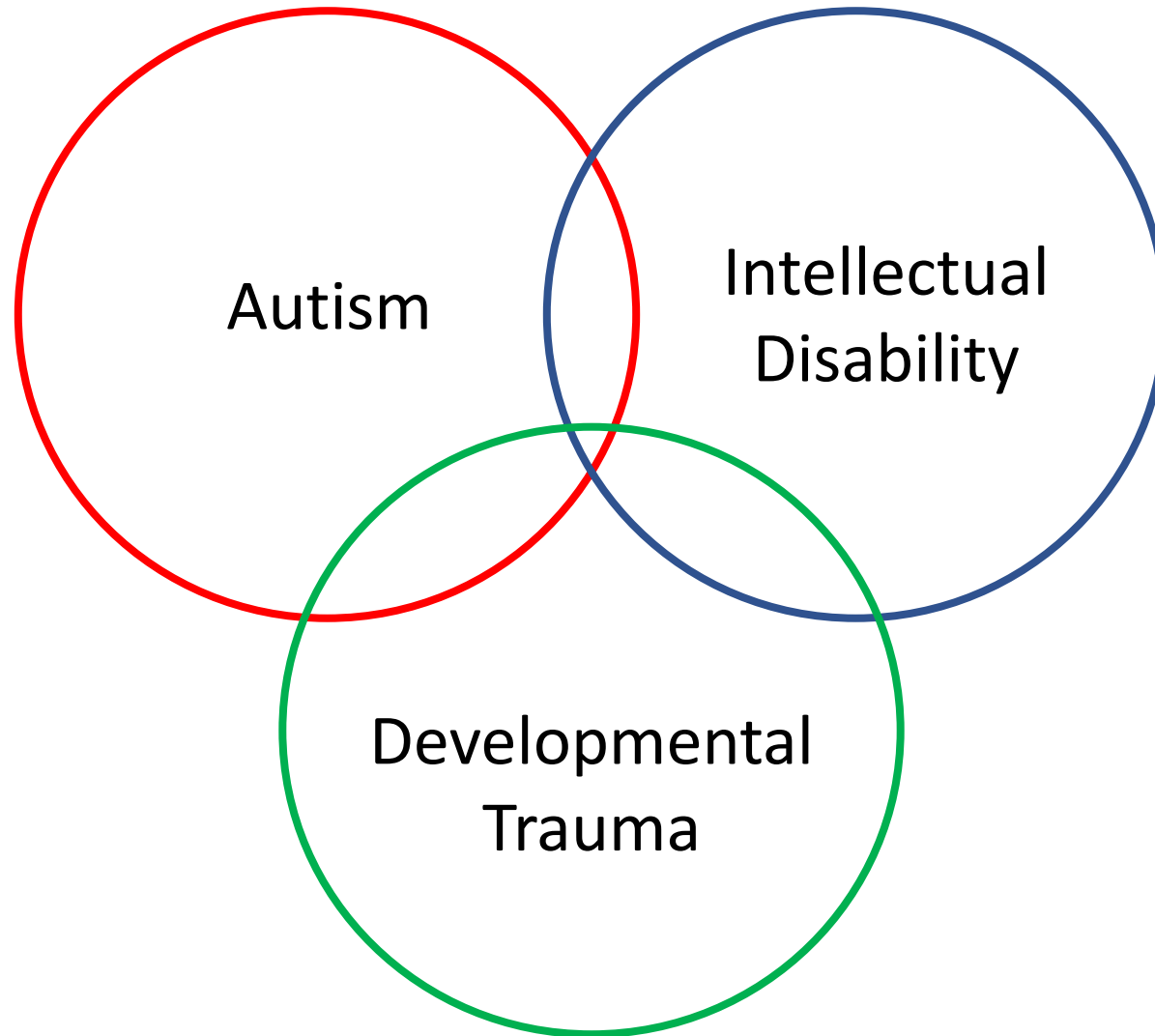
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About Me

- Clinical & Forensic Psychologist
- Began career with adult federal corrections
- 15 years of clinical experience supporting the emotional, social, and behavioural needs of children and youth
- Adapted and evaluated a dating violence prevention program for justice-involved youth
- Committed to promoting evidence-based and trauma-informed approaches



Case Example



Ineffective Responses

- Overestimate risk
- Diagnostic overshadowing
- Exclusion
- Discrepancies between expectations and developmental abilities
- Punitive behaviour management
- Overlooking strengths



What Worked

- Comprehensive assessment
- Individualized treatment plan
 - Informed by assessment
 - Risk-Need-Responsivity model
 - Treatment targets and monitoring
 - Evidence-based treatment
- Strong therapeutic relationship
- Promote autism friendly environments

Effective

Prevention

- Access to sexual health education
- Multimodal approaches that match the adolescents' needs and learning differences
- Training for caregivers, educators, mental health and medical professionals

Thank You & Questions

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