



ParentsWithPromise is a specialty practice developed in response to societal concerns and attitudes toward the understanding of sexual expression in adults with disabilities. The balance between sexual expression and protection from abuse and coercion are fine lines, and concerns as to whether an adult with a disability can make an informed decision or give informed consent to a relationship or sexual activity is on the minds of caretakers. Ultimately professionals, parents and guardians are concerned with the safety of adults with disabilities, but have lacked the knowledge or tools most appropriate for providing intimate relationship protection. By acknowledging the importance of healthy relationship development, intimacy, and a clients right to self-determination, caregivers and professionals can begin to provide resources that protect adults with disabilities from harm.

ParentsWithPromise specializes in providing groups for individuals with intellectual disabilities that focus on information delivery in a meaningful, salient way, so that those with disabilities can retain their integrity and autonomy when making relationship decisions.

ParentsWithPromise provides comprehensive, integrative services for persons with disabilities or adaptive functioning concerns.

The following targeted services are provided:

- Trauma Focused Individual Counseling
- Women's Intimacy and Self Advocacy Groups
- Men's Intimacy and Self Advocacy Groups
- Anti-Bullying Groups

Individual Counseling

ParentsWithPromise provides individual counseling from a strengths based perspective that assumes all individuals have purpose, strengths, and the right to self-determination.

Intimacy and Self Advocacy Groups

ParentsWithPromise group programs focus on respect for one's self, respect for sexual partners, and consideration of consequences to various choices and behaviors. Content in this program address these issues, as well as, identification of personal care of the human body, social etiquette, relationships, expression of feelings, and safety and awareness.

Anti-Bullying Groups

ParentsWithPromise groups focus on implementing anti-bullying programs that include all members of the community, setting clear expectations, and acknowledging and rewarding positive behaviors and acceptance of diversity.

- Social skills training and other interventions for persons who are likely to be perpetrators, victims, and bystanders of bullying.
- Creating safe and confidential ways for individuals to report bullying, conducting awareness, and training program staff on policies and practices for reports of bullying, and resolving conflicts in ways that minimize stigma to individuals involved.
- Improving vigilance of clients & staff at work, home, and in the community.



Intimacy Groups

Groups focus on respect for oneself, respect for intimacy, partners, and consideration of the positive and negative consequences to behaviors and choices people make in relationships.

Healthy Intimacy Groups Include:

Identifying Types of Relationships
Decision Making
Cyber Safety
Friendships
Being in a Relationship
From Friend to Partner to Sweetheart
Communication
Intimacy & Attraction, Feelings & Acts
Decision Making & Partner Intimacy
Challenges and Things that Can Go Wrong
Anatomy
Avoiding Pregnancy and STD's
as well as many other topics

Professional Development

Seminars and Workshops for Professionals with continuing education credits are available as well as Case Consultations



Denice Mock, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, received her Bachelor's Degree in Family Consumer Nutrition Science, with emphasis in Social Services through Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, in 2001. In 2006 she received her Master's Degree in Social Work from Aurora University. She is currently a doctoral candidate with Aurora University's, George Williams College in Wisconsin. Denice has over 18 years of experience in Child Welfare and has worked for the State of Illinois Department Of Children and Family Service in a number of capacities. As a therapist for families of Child Abuse/Neglect, her work has taken her through a plethora of experiences, including trauma counseling for individuals, parents, families, children and those with special needs; conducting seminars, presenting at the International TASP Conference, and providing continuing education opportunities for caseworkers and foster parents. Denice has served as a Facilitator for the DCFS Child and Youth Investment Team and presently conducts Parent Capacity Assessments for the Department.

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