



Setting the Stage for Prevention: Understanding the Mental Health Factors That Influence Child Safety

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1 General
Social Work
CEU



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Lisa Zarcone is an award-winning author, child and mental health advocate, CASA advocate, and nationally recognized speaker. As a survivor-advocate and Massachusetts Regional Director for the National Association of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse (NAASCA), Lisa uses her personal journey and extensive advocacy experience to educate and inspire others to better understand the impact of trauma on children, families, and communities.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

This opening session introduces the connection between family mental wellness and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Rather than focusing on one diagnosis or one type of trauma, this session provides the foundation for the full series by exploring how caregiver stress, child development, family history, social isolation, community conditions, and access to support can affect child safety. Participants will examine how prevention-focused professionals can recognize concerns early, strengthen protective factors, and help families receive support before challenges become crises.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Connect family mental wellness to child abuse prevention.
- Identify key risk and protective factors.
- Explain the value of early recognition and support.
- Recognize ways communities can support families before crisis.

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