







## Refugee youth differ from each other!



- Not a monolithic group
- Have had varying experiences
- Undergo major developmental changes and challenges

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## The teen's age & what that means



- Birthdays are "iffy"
- Both "old" & "young" for their age
- The teen years in various cultures

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## Culturally sensitive responses



- No one group is the same
- Language differences
- Cultural expressions
- Relationships with others
- Beliefs and values

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## Address safety

- In the school
- On the streets
- At home

BRYCS. (2016). Child Abuse Issues with Refugee Populations (PART I): Recognizing Suspected Child Abuse/Injury in Culturally Diverse Refugee Families. <http://www.brycs.org/clearinghouse/clearinghouse-resource.cfm?Docum=2675>

BRYCS. (2016). Child Abuse Issues with Refugee Populations (PART II): Refugee Resettlement and Child Welfare: Working Together for Child Protection. <http://www.brycs.org/clearinghouse/clearinghouse-resource.cfm?Docum=2679>

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## When a young refugee is "in trouble"

- Trauma?
- Misbehavior?



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## Tips for your conversations

- Take time to hear their stories
- Be curious, and listen
- Listen for strengths & resourcefulness
- Engage in appreciative inquiry

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## 1) Build rapport

- Show that you care—Addressing the person
- Nonverbal behavior
- Your relationship can help heal past wounds & serve as a model

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## 2) Listen to the feelings expressed

- Collaborative inquiry
- Appreciative inquiry
- Hearing the unspoken
- Giving voice

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## 3) Support survival strengths

- Speak to what has survived
- Name the strengths
- Document and archive the strengths

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**4) Encourage sense of agency**

- Explore origins of agency
- Explore allies of agency

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**5) Detect co-morbidity:  
Appropriate referrals**

- Listen to symptoms that mask other problems
- Note differential expression of symptoms

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**6) Rebuild hope &  
a sense of the future**

- Ask about moments of hope
- Name moments of hope
- Reframe hope moments

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Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services

## 7) Address loss experience as contextual suffering gains

- Explore loss
- Contextual
- Situational
- Global



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## School Issues

- Examine challenges
- Academics
- Social
- Behavioral



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## 8) Connect the teen with others

- Strategize with the teen
- Strategies for making schools & classrooms safer & more welcoming
- Community connections



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### 9) Understanding the students' prior learning/school experiences

- Background
- Academic challenges
- Lack of preparation
- Teacher expectations



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### 10) Academic placement & appropriate accommodations for learning

- School preparedness
- Learning challenges
- Mental illness vs learning issues



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### 11) Attend to teacher and parent expectations

- Congruence of expectations
- Clash of values
- Integrating the teen's goals & perspectives



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**Contact Us**

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