

Overview of Signs of Safety and Restorative Practices and Systemic Practice

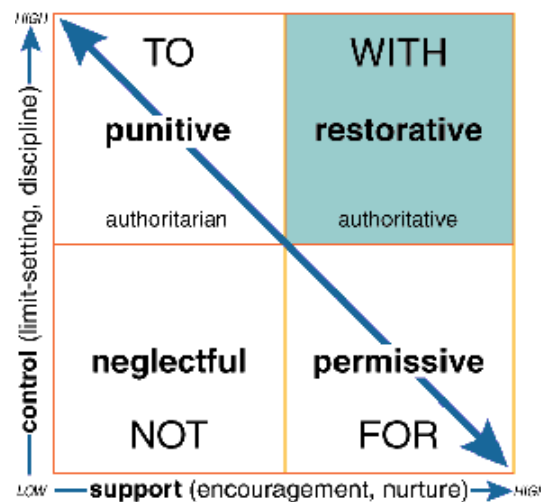
Signs of Safety	Restorative Practices	Systemic Practice
<p>Signs of Safety is a process model for children’s services practice with children, families, and other professionals from case opening to closure.</p> <p>Practice is participative with the children and families. It involves networks of people naturally connected to the child.</p> <div data-bbox="264 882 689 1316" data-label="Diagram"> </div> <p><small>Comprehensive balanced child protection risk assessment</small></p>	<p>Restorative Practices is a social science that studies how to build social capital and achieve social discipline through participatory learning and decision making.</p> <p>The use of restorative practices aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce crime, violence and bullying • improve human behaviour • strengthen civil society • provide effective leadership • restore relationships • repair harm. <p>The social discipline window (illustration below) is a concept with broad application in many settings. It describes four basic approaches to maintaining social norms and behavioural boundaries. The four are</p>	<p>Systemic practice approaches problems practically, seeking to identify stagnant patterns of behavior address those patterns directly, irrespective of analysis of cause. The systemic therapist's role is to help systems to change themselves by introducing creative "nudges":</p> <p><i>"Systemic therapy neither attempts a 'treatment of causes' nor of symptoms, rather it gives living systems nudges that help them to develop new patterns together, taking on a new organizational structure that allows growth."</i></p> <p>Focuses on relationships and communicating and the positive functioning in human systems,</p>

In child protection, it involves rigorous and balanced risk assessment throughout the case (harm and dangers as well strengths and existing safety). The method applies for working all cases (with adaptations to the language of danger and safety).

The focus of change is on everyday living arrangements of children and this being actively maintained and monitored with the network of the people naturally connected to the child.

Origins and underlying philosophy of the approach are solution focused (in analysis and action orientation). It draws also on the systemic tradition. Being participative and relational it is a restorative approach.

represented as different combinations of high or low control and high or low support. The restorative domain combines both high control and high support and is characterized by doing things **with** people, rather than **to** them or **for** them.



looking to bring out, share, and respect everyone's views and stories, integrating a way forward with the family.

Systemic practice is carefully finding good 'fitting together', positive 'teaming up'. 'Teaming up' describes creative collaboration, looking after each other in the way a good football team does - developing and working for shared aims; playing to each other's position, role and known strengths, and not showing up weaknesses. This reduces and integrates, but does not eliminate, the need for more highly specialist services.

Systemic practice emphasises curiosity, neutrality, and safe uncertainty. It assesses risk from multiple perspectives, with family members each having their part of the story.