

This presentation will discuss how life trauma can have a profound impact on an individual neurologically, psychologically, and cognitively. Additionally, this poster presentation will look at how traumatic experiences can alter the physical structure and development of the brain, which can lead to many different types of symptomology in later life. Changes in physical brain development, psychological development, and behavioral abnormalities will be discussed. Specific focus will be placed on adopted children who, regardless of the specifics of their background, have all experienced trauma due to attachment disruption being a form of trauma. The implications of disrupted attachment as well as the compounded effects of other potential scenarios related to adoption will be considered. Research has shown that implementation of Trauma Informed Practices in parenting can lead to behavioral and emotional growth in children who have experienced early life trauma. For adopted children, and all children who have experienced trauma, trauma-informed practices implemented in the home and in programming can allow children with trauma-related behavioral issues to be full participants in their social settings. Suggestions will be given for parents, caregivers, teachers, and all others working with children from difficult backgrounds for understanding and working with the impact of early life trauma.