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# From Educate to Advocate

My Students are Traumatized, Now What?

— Lauren Henderson M.S. CATP —

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# About Me

- M.S. Forensic Psychology
- Certified Child and Adolescent Trauma Professional
- Positions held:
  - Visitation Worker
  - Family Advocate
  - Wraparound Mental Health Facilitator
- Passionate Education Advocate!

# Trauma-Informed Care

- Trauma comes in many forms
- What trauma looks like in your students
- Brain on fire
- The goal of trauma informed care is not to punish the kids for behaviors they may not be able to control
- Only when the underlying trauma is addressed will the student begin to be able to function better in the classroom

# What is an Advocate?

- Everyone is an advocate
- You are advocates for your students
- Definition: giving a greater voice to someone/thing/cause which does not have a voice
- When did you go above and beyond for a student?

# Why Should We Advocate?

- ACEs
- The more support a teacher can provide to their students, the more engaged they are likely to be
- In students who have experienced trauma, a single positive and supportive relationship, can improve their sense of connection and lead to greater success in school
- Teachers are the biggest factor in achievement of students

## Child trauma occurs more than you think.

More than **TWO THIRDS OF CHILDREN** reported at least 1 traumatic event by age 16.<sup>1</sup> Potentially traumatic events include:

- PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL, OR SEXUAL ABUSE
- COMMUNITY OR SCHOOL VIOLENCE
- WITNESSING OR EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- NATURAL DISASTERS OR TERRORISM
- COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
- SUDDEN OR VIOLENT LOSS OF A LOVED ONE
- REFUGEE OR WAR EXPERIENCES
- MILITARY FAMILY-RELATED STRESSORS (E.G., DEPLOYMENT, PARENTAL LOSS OR INJURY)
- PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ASSAULT
- NEGLECT
- SERIOUS ACCIDENTS OR LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS

The national average of child abuse and neglect victims in 2013 was **679,000**, or **9.1 victims per 1,000 children**.<sup>2</sup>



Each year, the number of youth requiring hospital treatment for physical assault-related injuries would fill **EVERY SEAT IN 9 STADIUMS**.<sup>3</sup>



**1 IN 4** HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS was in at least **1 PHYSICAL FIGHT**.<sup>4</sup>



1 in 5 high school students was bullied at school; **1 IN 6** EXPERIENCED **CYBERBULLYING**.<sup>5</sup>



**19%** of injured and **12%** of physically ill youth have post-traumatic stress disorder.<sup>6</sup>



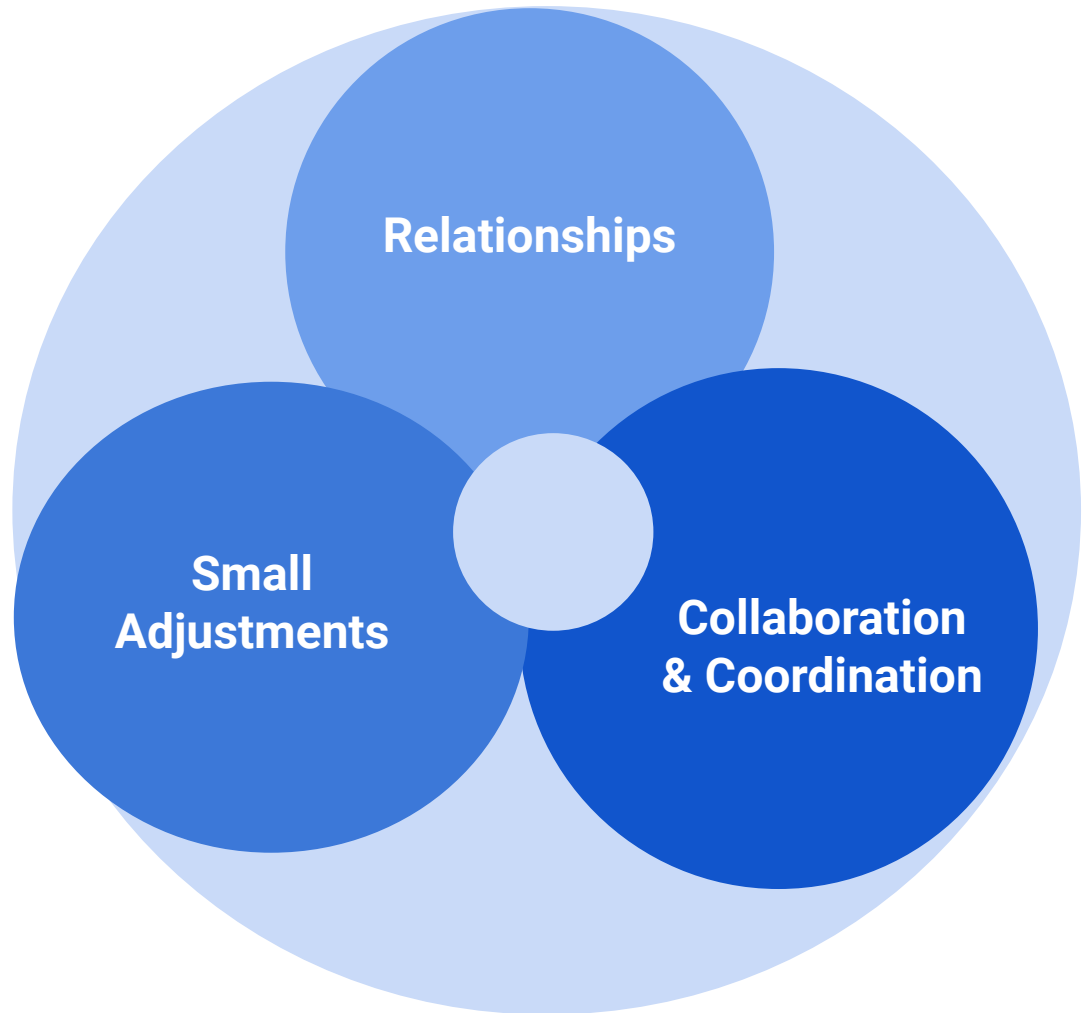
More than half of U.S. families have been affected by some type of disaster (**54%**).<sup>7</sup>

# Rita Pierson Ted Talk



# How Do I Advocate?

- Categories within Advocacy
- Pieces of the Advocacy Puzzle





# Scenario: Louise



# Scenario: Jacob



# Scenario: Maria



# Menominee Video

<https://www.pbs.org/video/prospect-hope-8lwfu7/>

# Questions?

-If something comes up later, reach out to me at: [lehenderson.ms@gmail.com](mailto:lehenderson.ms@gmail.com)

# Sources

- Abud, 2007
- Allen et al., 2016
- Demanet & Van Houtte, 2012
- Kane & Staiger, 2012
- Klemm and Connell, 2004
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2015
- Wang & Holcombe, 2010