



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

- UNESCO Chair in
- Children, Youth and Civic Engagement
- Ireland
- **CHILD AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTRE**

Family Partnerships

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OVERVIEW

- 1. Frighten you with Some Theory that Underpins FP**
- 2. Family Partnerships as a mode of work That ‘Makes Sense’**
- 3. Give some Practice Examples From Service models to a student who learned FP the hard way and including a “Nun with a Gun”**

Social Support Theory

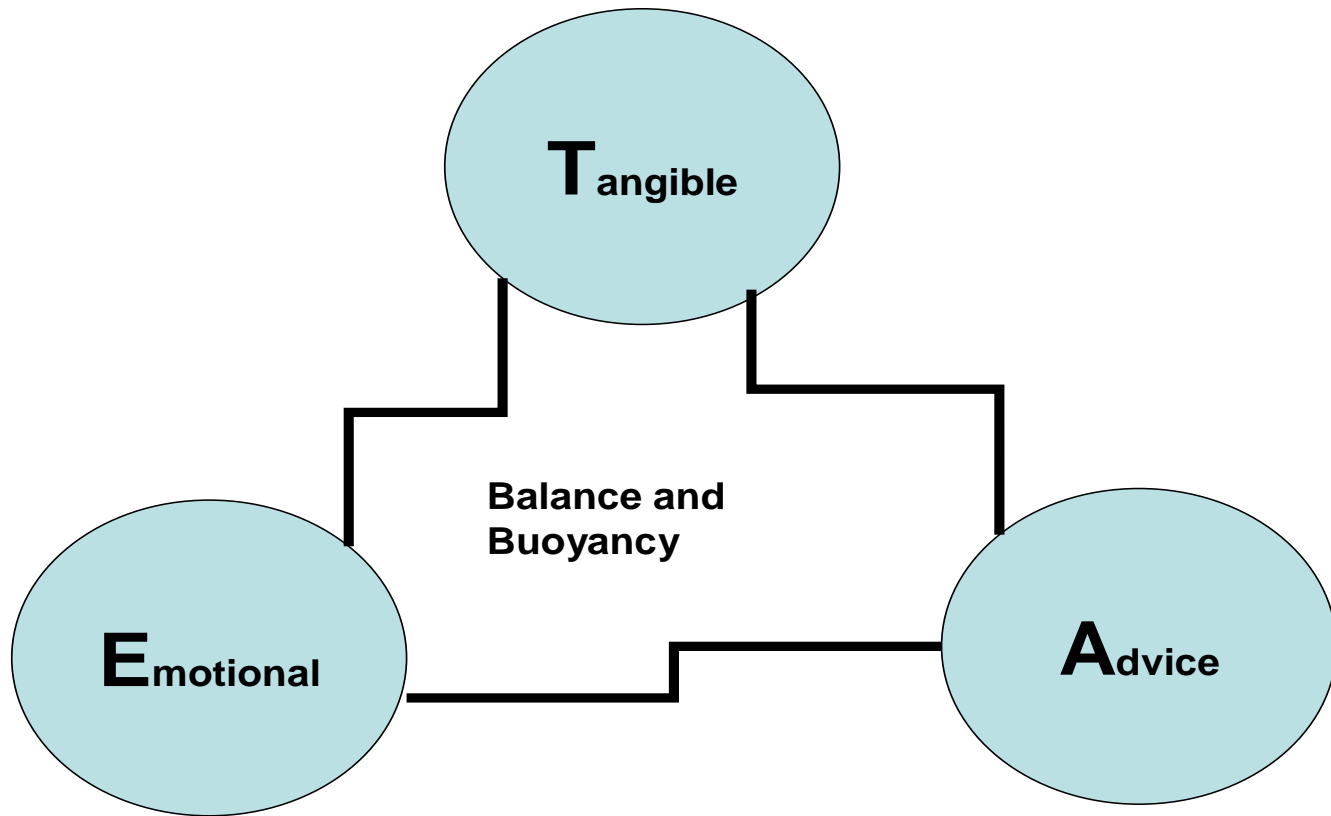
Power of Informal Natural Support in Families
(Pinkerton & Dolan, 2007)
Principle of Reciprocity (Cutrona 2006)

Family Engagement as shareholders to stress as
part of the Solution (Connolly 2008) - **Commonality**
of Outcomes

The Charlie Bruner Rule (Bruner, 2006)

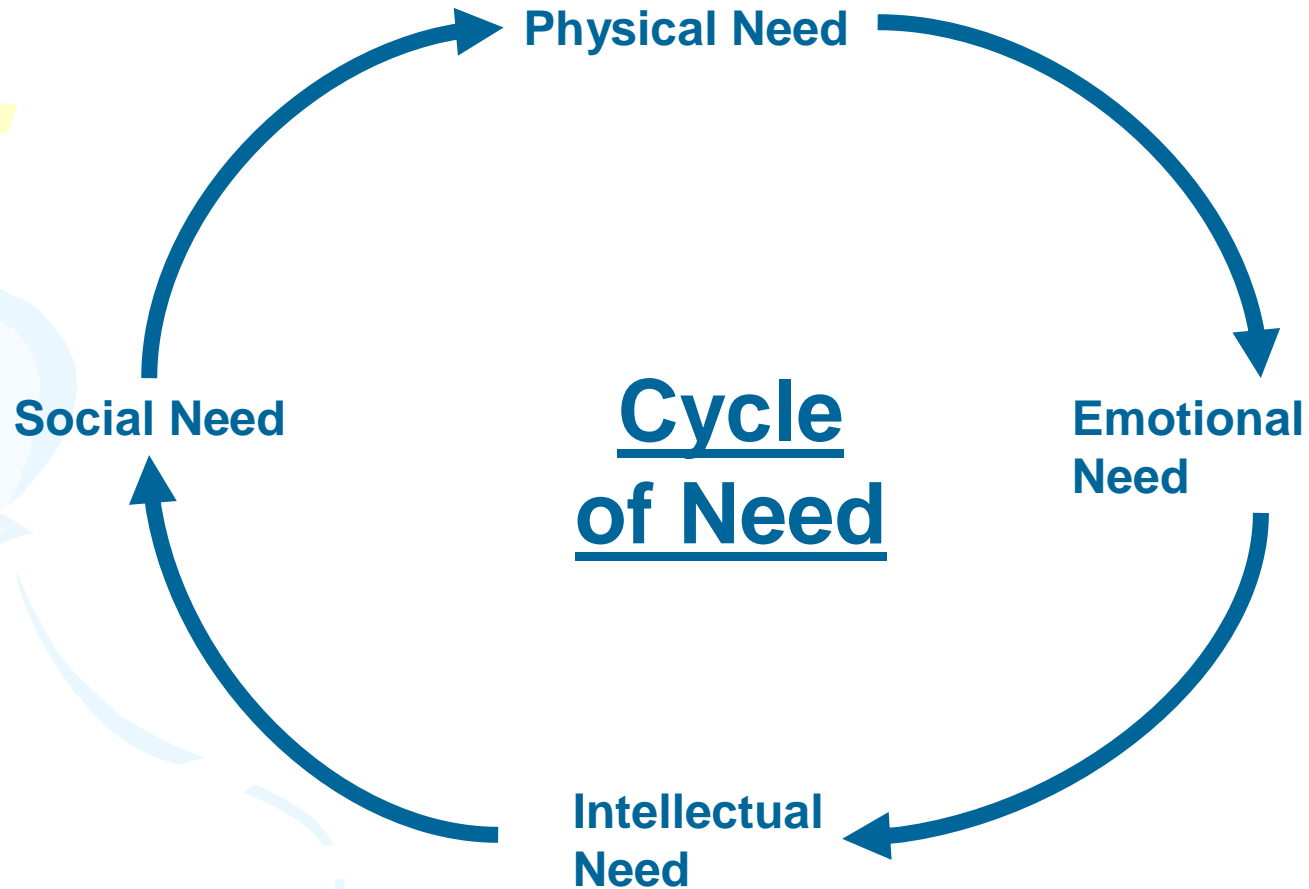
Most Recently – The Power of Hidden Support
(Bolger 2009)

TEA as Types of Support that Aid Coping



Dolan 2010

Common across Adulthood, Dementia, Ageism, Intellectual and Physical Disability



Adapted from Kelmer-Pringle, 1970

Rationale

**Who knows the Family Best – Stresses/Strengths?
Who is ideally placed to contribute to the solutions
and coping mechanisms/plans?
Who are most likely to be excluded?**

**The Going to Doctor Principle –Public Health Policy
RCTs and Evidence Base
Limitations – Tooth Extraction in Childhood
The move away from Professionals who Retain
Power as a tool in their working Relationships
Historically almost an owner-pet Relationship**

**Family Partnership as Pragmatic as well as a Right
Sometimes Family are not willing Sometimes so are
Professionals**

Effective Models of Family Partnerships

In Child Protection Springboard (McKeown 2001) and
in Internationally in preventing Child Maltreatment
(Thompson 1995)

Family Group Conference (Family Community
Involvement in Law in New Zealand – Connolly 2008)

For Youth - The Winthrop Project UK 1966 – Families
signed off on assessment – intervention and
evaluation

Nurse Family Partnerships - David Olds
Communities that Care - David Hawkins



The Student Who Learned the Hard Way on Family Partnership

Developing an adapted Version of Well Known Diversion Programme – for Parents of Young Offenders

100% Compliance

100% Failure

Parents complied as recipients and subtly afraid of the Law and in an opposite place to partnership



Core Principles of Family Partnerships

Five Mutual R's
Respect
Regard
Responsiveness
Review
Relationships