

DR/PT/FAMILY TALK

TRIANGULATION POINTS

1. 3 person configuration is basic building block of any emotional system
2. Dr/pt encounter – illusion of dyad; family ghost in room
3. Types of triangles
 - a. Permanent perfect parent – compete for attention of authority figure
 - b. Dyadic enmeshment – two members overly involved, exclude third
 - c. Illicit coalition – two member join together to attack third
 - d. Ideal therapeutic alliance – flexible, supportive, win-win

NARRATIVE POINTS

1. Can think of interactions/transactions among people, including drs and pts, as stories (way of organizing events)
2. But sometimes the story that is constructed is not in everyone's best interest
3. We have ability to construct alternative stories
4. Focus on aligning people in story against the problem (need to make Eng an American child makes us all unhappy)
5. Look for evidence, even slight, on which to build competing story

INTRODUCTION TO “FATHERING”

This is the story of a Vietnam veteran, Jason, his common-law wife Sharon, and his AmerAsian daughter Eng whom he has recently found in Vietnam and brought to live with him and Sharon in the United States. Jason was married previously and has two other daughters who live with their mother on a commune that raises goats. He feels he has made a mess of his life, but has a chance to begin again with this new daughter. Jason and his family live in a small rural town in the Northeast. In this particular excerpt, Eng suddenly becomes ill one night with fever and vomiting, and the family seeks the care of their family physician, Dr. Kearns.