#### Developing a Coping Culture in the Home, Classroom, School

#### **Application of Cognitive Behavioral Theory to Prevention/Interventions**



Do you want children to enjoy a happy, successful life? Do you know what is the greatest obstacle to your goal? It has nothing to do with their ethnic background, income or intellect. It has to do with their lack of the skills to have "Good Thinking".

Please complete the front our "Information Card" Complete the back at the end of the workshop

#### **Workshop Expectations**

#### Workshop Expectations

Scientifically Sound

Interactive

#### Easy to Use (By Anyone)

Useful in Various Situations with Various People

Challenging

Enjoyable



## "Children have inborn tendencies which make it much easier for them to behave badly or neurotically than for them to behave well or sanely.

And unless something is actively, directly and consistently done by parents and by themselves to counter and thwart these inborn tendencies, they will probably be troubled for the rest of their days." Dr. Albert Ellis, 1966

Cognitive Behavior Therapy

#### in Clinical Social Work Practice



Tammie Ronen Arthur Freeman, Editors

Foreword by Aaron T. Beck

#### CHAPTER 10

# The Use of Metaphorical Fables with Children

Application of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to Prevention Interventions

> G. Bert Allain Catherine M. Lemieux

Introduction (xxvii)

"Treatments for children and adolescents must take into

account the need for rather concrete

and focused approaches.

One such approach is the use of metaphor and metaphorical

fables to teach children and adolescents the connection

between their thoughts and their feelings and actions.

What is encouraging is the coping skills program (CSP) developed by Allain and Lemieux.

The goal of this treatment program is prevention though

a CBT-based program. If youth can develop the skills

to avoid problems they can be more successful."

#### The 10 Most Common Irrational Beliefs of Children (Waters, 1982)

I must win.

Things should come easily to me.

There is only one right answer.

I shouldn't have to wait for anything.

It's awful if others don't like me.

#### The 10 Most Common Irrational Beliefs of Children (Waters, 1982)

Everything should go my way and I should always get what I want.

The world should be fair and bad people should be punished.

I'm bad if I make a mistake.

Adults should be perfect.

I shouldn't show my feelings



# If you tell yourself With the second second

### How will you feel?

#### If you feel that way



#### How will you behave?

# If you tell yourself



"Those trashy SOBs...are making fun of me and they can't get away with it!!"

#### How will you feel?

#### If you feel that way



#### How will you behave?

### If you tell yourself

"Oh no, they are talking about me! I must look (have acted) stupid. This is too awful"

#### Or

#### "Those trashy SOBs...are making fun of me and they can't get away with it!!"

### Who is in control of you?

## I'm bad if I make a mistake.



# It's awful if others don't like me.



#### I shouldn't show

my feelings



The world should be fair and bad people should be punished.



#### Adults should be

perfect.





## CHANGING THE CONVERSATIONS

## If you tell yourself "I don't know if they are talking about me. And even if they are, I am not going to let that ruin my day."

#### How will you feel?

#### If you feel that way



#### How will you behave?

#### If you tell yourself

"I don't know if they are talking about me. And even if they are, I am not going to let that ruin my day."

#### Who is in control of you?



THINKING

They may be talking about me but I don't know that, I am making myself upset unnecessarily. And even if they are and saying ugly things, I know I didn't do anything wrong.

BEHAVIORS

Stay at the school, enjoy

yourself, be nice to "them

And not DWELL on it!!

Ź

EMOTIONS

**Two People Whisperi** 

Concerned but in control. Able to not get

١G

overly upset.

#### Wkispering Squirrels

#### A Gosmos Grow Adventare



You are confronted with "Whispering Squirrels" situations every day.

You cannot control the challenges life gives you but you can control how you deal with them.

The more often you choose to take control of your life, the easier it is to be in control.

> Eventually, it will become a habit and you will smile at the foolish behavior of the "Whispering Squirrels" in your life.

Dr. Nice & Mr. Nasty

#### A Gosmos Grow Adventure



You can choose which to be, a Dr. Nice or Mr. Nasty. It will depend on how you think, and can happen faster than you can blink.









The ability to experience a less than optimal situation, face it and accept it, proceed forward with an adaptive response. (Kendall, 1992)

## Understanding "Why I Do The Things I Do"

The things I tell myself about myself, others and life determines how I feel and act.

If I know what I am thinking and if appropriate, I should act on it, if inappropriate, I can change it.

If I can do that then I can control how I feel and behave and I will be "In Control".
## A CHILDHOOD "MIRROR"

Self...Others...Life

**IS FILTERED BY** 

**THEIR BELIEFS** 

## "IF A CHILD BELIEVES"

If a child believes they can't succeed- they won't.

If a child believes they can't succeed- they won't.

If a believes that others will never like them- they won't.

If a child believes they can't succeed- they won't.

If a child believes that others will never like them- they won't.

If a child believes that school is worthless- it is.

If a child believes they can't succeed- they won't. If a child believes that others will never like them- they won't.

If a child believes that school is worthless- it is.

If a child believes that play is more important than study- it is.

If a child believes they can't succeed- they won't. If a child believes that others will never like them- they won't. If a child believes that school is worthless- it is. If a child believes that play is more important than study- it is. If a child believes it is OK to do anything to be accepted-they will.

If a child believes they can't succeed- they won't. If a child believes that others will never like them- they won't. If a child believes that school is worthless- it is. If a child believes that play is more important than study- it is. If a child believes it is OK to do anything to be accepted- they will. If a child believes that bullying is acceptable- they will.

If a child believes they can't succeed- they won't. If a child believes that others will never like them- they won't. If a child believes that school is worthless- it is. If a child believes that play is more important than study- it is. If a child believes it is OK to do anything to be accepted- they will. If a child believes that bullying is acceptable- they will. And as long as they believe that way, you can't bribe, scare or punish them enough to keep it from happening. You have to teach them "Good Thinking" coping skills.

## The "Brat" In School and Life

### Childhood Belief Everything should go my way and I should always get what I want.

Adult Belief Being controlled or dominated by others is intolerable. The following are statements you may or may not believe.

Please rate them in the following manner.
5 = I believe this to <u>always be true</u>.
4 = I believe this to be <u>true most of the time</u>.
3 = I believe this to be <u>true some of the time</u>.
2 = I believe <u>this almost never true</u>.
1 = I believe <u>this to be never true</u>.

#### Circle the number that most accurately reflects what you believe.

- 1. (5 4 3 2 1) People will take advantage of me if I give them the chance.
- (5 4 3 2 1) I should avoid unpleasant situations at all costs.
- 3. (5 4 3 2 1) I must not offend my supporter or someone who cares for me.
- 4. (5 4 3 2 1) It is important to do a perfect job on everything.
- 5. (5 4 3 2 1) I need to be in complete control of my emotions.
- (5 4 3 2 1) If I want something I should do whatever is necessary to get it.
- 7. (5 4 3 2 1) Being controlled or dominated by others is intolerable.
- 8. (5 4 3 2 1) People often say one thing and mean something else.
- 9. (5 4 3 2 1) Details are extremely important to me.
- 10. (5 4 3 2 1) Other people are often too demanding

#### Being controlled or dominated by others is intolerable.



### Why Use Metaphorical Stories

(Baddely, 1992: Prins, Weber & McGaugh 1994)

• Basic neuropsychology teaches us to chunk information if we want to remember it. Moreover, research on the therapeutic use of imagery suggest that **memory for verbal** information is enhanced when the material is organized and interesting, is mildly but not severely emotionally evocative and utilizes a number of sensory realms.









### **Teaching Success and Happiness Skills**

If you want a child to remember something,

make it a story.

If you want them to learn how to deal with peer pressure to be persistent or to be considerate, put these messages in an enjoyable story and help them understand how to use these skills.

### 1. I'm bad if I make a mistake.

#### Scaredy Gat

A Gosnos Grow Adventare



Scaredy Cat: (Anxiety/Fear) Some children tend to be fearful of the novel or difficult. Unfortunately, much of life's happiness and success depends on embracing novel and difficult tasks and not being a "Scaredy Cat". This fable allows us to see how Cosmos Crow is able to help a "Scaredy Cat" recognize that many fears are unnecessary

### Fault Finder

A Gosmos Grow Adverture



Taking responsibility for yourself is a very important skill.

In this story, you will find out what happens if you become a *Fault Finder*.

#### Wkoos A. Fraid

A Gosmos Grow Adventure



Fear is a controlling emotion. Because of it, you do things you know you shouldn't. Because of it, you don't do things you know you should. Sometimes fear is appropriate and useful. But often, it is unnecessary and causes problems. That is why it is important to know "right fear" from "wrong fear" and who better to teach you the difference than

Whoos A. Fraid.

# 2. Things should come easily to me.

#### Playful Paul

A Gosmos Grow Adventure



#### Playful Paul: (Attention Seeking/Academic Success)

Wanting to have fun and the positive attention of others is normal for most children. But it should be tempered with the reality of home and school priorities otherwise; your "Playful Paul" may be "left behind".





You often demand that things should go your way. You want others to fix your problems and always pla You get angry and are frustrated when they don't. You demand that others "row" your "boat."

#### Howarð Wkosjobisit

A Gosnos Grow Adventane



Wouldn't it be nice if you only had to do the things You really enjoyed doing.

Someone else would do all the boring or difficult things in life. You would only be required to do things you wanted to do and only for as long as they were fun.

You are going to meet someone else who wanted life to be that way. A very interesting squirrel named Howard Whosjobisit.

## 3. It's awful if others don't like me.

#### Beeing Mean To Me

A Gosmos Grow Adventure



#### Beeing Mean to Me: (Anger/Social Skills)

Blaming others instead of taking personal responsibility will cause your child a lot of problems. But there are "Good Thinking" skills to change this behavior rather than just punishing their unwillingness to accept responsibly for their behaviors.

#### Newton and the Needy Newts

A Gosmos Grow Adventare



We all like to do well and be thought of in positive terms. We enjoy having others say nice things to us or about us. This is very natural and perfectly okay.

But sometimes our "Likes" become "Needs." We no longer want others to like us. They must like us. We no longer hope that we do well on the test. We must do well on the test. We are no longer satisfied with looking good. We must be the best looking.

These demands, that we must be this or that, that others must treat us in certain ways and that life must be the way we want it to be, have become needs.

Being needy in this way can cause problems as you will see with Newton and the Needy Newts.

#### Gollard Greer Garder

A Gosmos Grow Adventare



Others may want you to do or not do something. What they want may not be in your best self-interest. If they are friends or family, this is called Peer Pressure. This is the story of a young girl who, after inheriting a farm, finds that she must learn to deal with "Peer Pressure"

or all she will ever have is a

Collard Green Garden.

### 7. Everything should go my way and I should always get what I want.

#### **Fassy Ferret**

A Gosmos Grow Adventure



#### The Fussy Ferret: (Whining/Consequences)

This story portrays the "realistic" consequences (in our imaginary animal world) of childish behaviors we see in almost all children. You may let your child's whining and fussing annoy you to the point that you do not require them to do important tasks or you do it for them. But what if they continue into adulthood? The negative consequences are obvious in our story and are also obvious in the real-life problems of adults that were allowed to be "Fussy Ferrets". **Polly Perfect** 

A Gosmos Grow Adventare



You may want your life to be perfect.

You make yourself angry or upset when that does not happen. You have trouble accepting life as it is and say things like "that's not fair," when you get disappointed.

Polly is about to learn some lessons that may help you understand tha "Perfectionistic Thinking" is Stinky Thinking.

#### **Little Prince**

A Gosmos Grow Adventure



This is the story of a young prince who thought that everything should be just the way he wanted. In this way, he is very much like you. When things did not go his way, he became very angry and acted on his anger, much to the regret of his subjects and finally to the Little Prince himself. You make yourself a "Little Prince" when you tell yourself: "The world **should** be fair!" "I **must** have things go my way!" "I **ought** to be able to do what I want!"

# 8. The world should be fair and bad people should be punished.

### Selfisk Skellfisk

A Gosmos Grow Adventare

#### Dor't Bee Argry

A Gosmos Grow Adventure

#### **Injustice Gollectors**

A Gosneos Grow Adventure



#### Selfish Shellfish: (Selfishness/Jealousy)

Selfishness seems to be part of our DNA. This short story will help even young children recognize that being selfish or jealous of others are qualities that lead to unhappiness.



Being angry is very natural. It seems to be outside of your control. It is caused by what others do or don't do. Being angry is okay... right?

Wrong, wrong, wrong! Being angry is not natural. It is learned. Being angry is not outside your control. You are causing it. Being angry is not caused by others. Your Stinky Thinking causes it. Being angry is definitely not okay.

When you cause yourself to become angry, you are giving control of yourself to some event (bad grade) or person ("He called me a name").

Why are you letting them (the event or that person) control your life?



Hurtful things happen and disappointments occur. People can be cruel and inconsiderate. Your best laid plans can fail. Many things seem to get in the way of your happiness. Such is life.

Some of you will accept that, "stuff happens" and learn from these less than desirable outcomes. You will deal with these situations and let them pass from your memory.

But some of you will insist that something, "Should not have happened that way" and that the other person is terrible, horrible and should be punished forever. You will relive the hurt and develop the skill of keeping your embarrassment or anger alive until it takes a life of its own.

You have become an "Injustice Collector"

Michael W. Otto, Harvard Medical School

"(Change) may be especially challenging for the patient who has difficulty discrimination between behaviors that feel right because they are old habits, and behaviors that are right because they lead to adaptive change.

Whenever possible, the therapist want the patient to be able to catch himself or herself in the <u>moment</u>."



## **EMOTIONAL SIGNAL LIGHT**

RED

VERY ANGRY VERY SAD VERY ANXIOUS VERY ASHAME VERY GUILTY VERY AFRAID STOP, DON'T DO ANYTHING!

Does what am I thinking right now make any sense?

What are alternative ways of thinking about this situation?

What would happen if I do something different than my usual?

Coping Skills LLC

www.copingslaftstte.com

## **EMOTIONAL SIGNAL LIGHT**

## YELLOW

CONCERNED WORRIED AGGRAVATED DOWN EMBARRASSED



www.copingslailistic.com



#### **SLOW DOWN!**

Evaluate what is really going on.

Is what I am thinking making sense?

If it does, go with it, and accept the consequences.

If not, what are some alternatives?



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#### RED VERY ANGRY VERY SAD VERY ANXIOUS VERY HUMILIATED

YELLOW CONCERNED WORRIED AGGRAVATED DOWN EMBARRASSED

GREEN EMOTIONALLY NEUTRAL,

NOT WANTING TO HURT OR GET BACK AT ANYONE.



Stop, don't do anything! Does what am I thinking right now make any sense?

What are alternative ways of thinking about this situation?

What would happen if I do something different than my usual?

Slow down, evaluate. Is what I am thinking making sense?

If it does, go with it, if not, what are some alternatives?

If what I am thinking is rational, go with it and don't be influenced into changing.

The Adventures of Cosmos Crow Coping Skills 7en Life Rules

It is important to have "Rules To Live By" so that you can be successful and happy. Learn the Coping Skills Ten Life Rules and use them to make "Good Thinking" decisions in your life.

# **Coping Skills 10 Life Rules** I. I shall not let my own or another's "Stinky Thinking" control my life.

## II. I shall not ask others to do for me things I could and should do for myself.

## III. I shall not do for others things that they could and should do for themselves.

## III. I shall not do for others things that they could and should do for themselves.

This Rule is not a directive to be mean, insensitive or unhelpful. It is a caution:

"If you want him to be cripple...carry him."
"If you want him to be fearful... overly protect him."
"If you want him to be irresponsible...help him avoid consequences."
"If you want him to be friendless...'buy' friendships."
"If you want him to be miserable...demand that life be fair."

# IV. I shall not let feelings of guilt, shame or fear cause me to do something that is against my best self-interest.

## V. I shall not let past failures keep me from attempting future tasks.

## VI. I shall not get into the habit of comparing myself to others.
# VII. I shall depend on myself, not others or things for personal

## satisfaction and happiness.

## VIII. I shall refuse to allow my

## fears to determine how

## I shall live my life.

# IX. I shall select friends based on their ability and willingness to tell me the truth about myself.

## X. I shall, without the intent

## of harming others,

## do in life

## what is in my

best self-interest.

#### Developing a Coping Culture in the Home, Classroom, School Application of Cognitive Behavioral Theory to Prevention/Interventions



Do you want children to enjoy a happy, successful life? Do you know what is the greatest obstacle to your goal? It has nothing to do with their ethnic background, income or intellect. It has to do with their lack of the skills to have "Good Thinking".

#### **Booth Material**

#### RED VERY ANGRY VERY SAD VERY ANXIOUS VERY HUMILIATED

YELLOW CONCERNED WORRIED AGGRAVATED DOWN EMBARRASSED

GREEN EMOTIONALLY NEUTRAL,

NOT WANTING TO HURT OR GET BACK AT ANYONE.



Stop, don't do anything! Does what am I thinking right now make any sense?

What are alternative ways of thinking about this situation?

What would happen if I do something different than my usual?

Slow down, evaluate. Is what I am thinking making sense?

If it does, go with it, if not, what are some alternatives?

If what I am thinking is rational, go with it and don't be influenced into changing.

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- 4. I shall not let feelings of guilt, shame or fear cause me to do something that is against my best self-interest.
  - 5. I shall not let past failures keep me from attempting future tasks
- 6. I shall not get into the habit of comparing myself to others.
  - 7. I shall depend on myself, not others or things, for personal satisfaction and happiness.
  - 8. I shall refuse to allow my fears to determine how I shall live my life.
- 9. I shall select friends, based on their ability and willingness to tell me the truth about myself.
- 10. I shall, without the intent of harming others, do in life, what is in my best self-interest.

Dr. Nice & Mr. Nasty

#### A Gosmos Grow Adventure



You can choose which to be, a Dr. Nice or Mr. Nasty. It will depend on how you think, and can happen faster than you can blink.



#### Summaries of all stories in ADVENTURES OF GOSMOS GROW



Read through our Summaries



Select the two Fables you want to use. Send us an email with those titles and we will send you links to them.

> www.cosmoscrow.com copingskillsfables@gmail.com

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- 4. (5 4 3 2 1) It is important to do a perfect job on everything.
- (5 4 3 2 1) I need to be in complete control of my emotions.
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- 7. (5 4 3 2 1) Being controlled or dominated by others is intolerable.
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#### **COPING SKILLS LLC**

#### USE OF COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPUTIC FABLES

**Understanding Important Concepts** 

Why We do What We Do

Our Most Common Irrational Beliefs

Defining the Terms used in our Stories

How our Stories Are Organized

How to Present the Coping Skills Material in a School Setting



#### Creating a "Coping Culture" for the home/school

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have 50 audio enhanced therapeutic fables available to share with your students at any convenient opportunity?

Our Memberships provide these internet streaming fables that make it possible for you to provide your students with a fun and easy way to learn the coping skills necessary for them to be cooperative and eager to learn. There is also a "library" of support material and ongoing additional material sent you your email address

Ideal for 1st -6th grades

We have provided you with a 30% off first year membership code.

https//www.cosmoscrow.com (check out our "Test Drive") copingskillsfables@gmail.com

30% off first year Membership (Bronze, Silver or Gold). At checkout, click "user access code" then enter access2019 at "Redeem".

#### MEMBERSHIPS

There are three memberships available for the Adventures of Cosmos Crow. Each membership allows the user to access all of the material available on the website, www.cosmoscrow.com at any time. If any membership appeals to you, click "Membership Info", select the Membership you want and add **it** to your cart.

Our **Bronze Membership** (\$49.00 annually) is for those that want to have access to all 50 of our fables and support material, to use our fables to have an enjoyable, easy to use way to teach children effective coping skills. Our audio enhance fables are enjoyed by parents, grandparents, classroom teachers, scout leaders, youth ministers and more. All of our flipbooks, regardless Membership type, have an abbreviated audio book, perfect for use on a Smart Phone.

Our **Silver Membership** (\$79.00 annually) is for those individuals that want to have access to all 50 of our fables and support material. Plus, be **able to share the stories with others by sending them a story (s) to** their email address. This level is ideal for anyone, wanting to be able to share these effective coping skills stories with clients, parents and friends.

Our **Gold Membership** (\$699.00 annually) is for individual Schools, Organizations and Professional Practices that need to provide membership to multiple users. Our Gold Option is for an Organizational Membership allowing any selected staff, access to all 50 of fables, our Cosmos Crow Bookcase and Library. This membership can also be made available to your organization's clients or parents (schools) on your organization's website.

Free access to two of our Adventures Fables, click on "Story Test Drive". www.cosmoscrow.com

copingskillsfables@gmail.com

#### Developing a Coping Culture in the Home, Classroom, School Application of Cognitive Behavioral Theory to Prevention/Interventions



Do you want children to enjoy a happy, successful life? Do you know what is the greatest obstacle to your goal? It has nothing to do with their ethnic background, income or intellect. It has to do with their lack of the skills to have "Good Thinking".

#### The Necessary Steps

#### **1. Focus on Cognitions**

(The thinking, belief system of the children)

## 2. Accept the normality of their "dysfunction"

# 3. Address their need to develop effective cognitive coping skills as young as possible.

#### 4. Use age appropriate material.

#### 5. Reinforce appropriate coping skills.

#### 6. Promote a "Total Coping Culture"

## 7. Involve family ( If the program is in a classroom or out of home setting)

#### 8. Evaluate the effort

#### 9. Continue, continue, continue



# QUESTIONS or SUGGESTIONS

## IX. I shall select friends based on

## their ability and willingness to

## tell me the truth about myself.



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