Understanding the vulnerable child

Consider the situation, environment or stimulus when attempting to understand behaviours.



I have worked in a variety of educational institutions over the past 20 years from private to mainstream to specialist education and several PRU's. I gained all my experience from different institutions in a variety of countries like Dubai, Tunisia, South Africa and France before settling in the UK and finally finding my passion in PRU's.

I am currently a Head Teacher of an outstanding PRU in Surrey. It is here where we find that vulnerable children struggle with social settings and are unable to form trusting relationships with caring adults.

My career path has lead me to believe that no matter where you teach nor which country one teaches in, vulnerable children are overlooked and misunderstood. Though understanding and creating trusting relationships these children can become healthy, happy members of society.

Prior to teaching I worked in the Foreign Exchange industry for 13 years where I led a team of over 150 people, subsequently ending up as an international Fraud Investigator. This provoked a love of observing people and behaviours and I decided I wanted a career change. I studied a BSc (Hons) in Psychology with a view to becoming an Educational Psychologist but I enjoyed my placements when undertaking my teaching degree so I became a teacher.

I have worked as a SENCo in a small one-form entry mainstream school, then as Assistant Head at a large three-form entry mainstream school. After joining the Management Committee of the Fordway, I realised this is where I could mix my love of psychology and teaching perfectly taking me to now being the SENCo and Class Teacher at the Fordway PRU.



This INSET session will reflect upon some of the things that can contribute to making a child vulnerable. Consideration will be given to areas such as Domestic Abuse, Trauma and Attachment issues as well as neglect and anxiety experienced by the vulnerable child.

The session will consider the impact of this on the vulnerable child's behaviour and ability to learn in the school environment and the effect this can have upon staff working around the child .

Strategies will then be discussed that may support the child, build their resilience and offer staff around them the feeling that they are succeeding (play – build relationships/build neural networks, trusted adult, sleep and food, safe place etc)

The session will conclude with the opportunity of case studies that are difficult to spot and possible strategies that can be used to assist the school and pupil

Date:	**Upon request**
Time:	**90 minutes**
Venue:	**Your school**
Aimed at:	**Teachers, Higher Level Teaching Assistants and Teaching Assistants**
Phase:	**Primary**
Cost:	**£300 for non members and £270 for SESTA Associate Members**