

BANANA
YELLOW
PIANO™

How to Better Understand Parents to
Drive Engagement and Resiliency



Agenda:

1. Banana Barometer
2. Background/Story
3. Check on Bananas
4. Skills Acquisition
5. Parent Q&A



I need a few volunteers for a
Banana Barometer



Guidelines:

1. Hold Bananas outright
2. Keep bananas upright
3. Keep Bananas in the same hand
4. When you get tired, put bananas down but stay in your spot
5. We will debrief



Lets take a trip together.....

What comes to mind if I say
BANANA YELLOW PIANO?



One year I was a Cardboard Banana for
Halloween



Painted, of course, Banana Yellow



That year my mom painted our old black, aging piano that same Banana Yellow



She had her reasons I did not understand
at the time

But they were valid
and worked for her
as a coping skill



Later I understood better when learning about what was going on in her life:

- Divorce
- Cancer
- Kids
- Financial
- Returning to workforce
 - Safety
 - Partnership



No wonder she wanted to brighten her surroundings with a Banana Yellow Piano.

Something that glimmered joy in an otherwise dark and challenging time

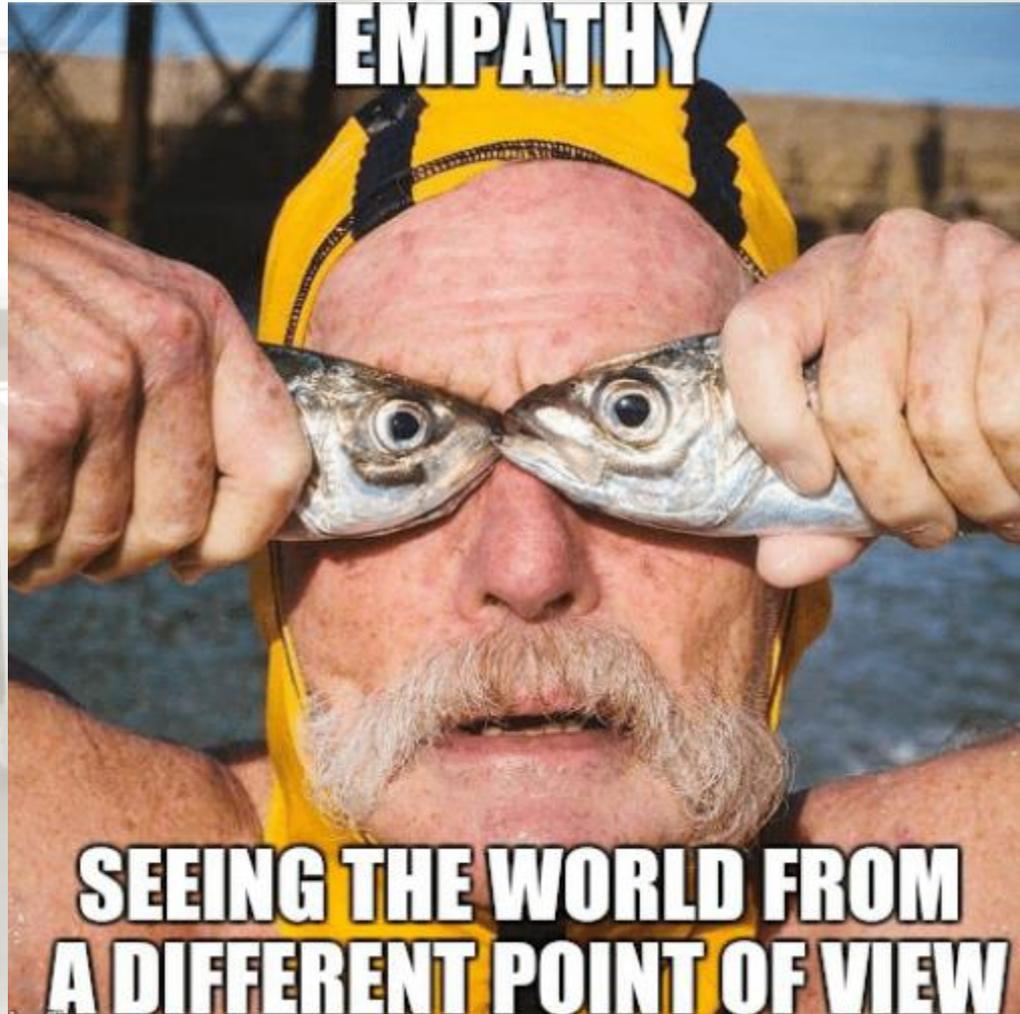


A photograph of a yellow piano with text overlaid on it. The piano is a classic upright model with a light-colored finish. The text is centered and reads: "Banana Yellow Piano is A Sign to engage in Empathy: Symbolic of Something else, It is the THING BEHIND the THING The MOTIVATION behind the BEHAVIOR".

Banana Yellow Piano is
A Sign to engage in Empathy:

Symbolic of Something else,
It is the THING
BEHIND the THING

The MOTIVATION behind the BEHAVIOR



A yellow upright piano is the central focus of the image. It has a classic design with a light-colored wood finish. The piano is set against a light blue wall. The text is overlaid in the center of the piano's body.

**It may look a little off to you,
but it makes sense to someone**

Everyone has a Banana Yellow Piano

Find it with Your Families

My mom's concerns are many of the same issues our parents are facing today but with several additional factors....



- 
- A faded, sepia-toned photograph of a room. In the center, a white piano is positioned. To the left, there is a window with multiple panes. The room has light-colored walls and a wooden floor. The overall image has a soft, ethereal quality.
- Mental Health issues
 - Physical or Mental Abuse
 - Drug Addiction



Suddenly, a
Banana Yellow Piano
Looks not so wacky
or even looks inviting
compared to other coping alternatives



Lets check the Banana Barometers



Our Story....

My husband and I wanted to expand our family.

We investigated lots of options



Our Story....

- Resource Parents
- Foster to Adopt program from UMFS
- Residential Treatment & Day School
- Came to live with us at 16 years old
- Officially Adopted at 17
- Went into 4th Residential placement after drugs, high risk behaviors, physical altercation and running away



Our Story....

Residential

- Confirmation of RAD/Capabilities
- Provided Family Respite
- Family Engagement: Weekly Family Therapy –ways of communicating as a group (key words)



Our Story....

- Transition home after Residential
- Graduated from high school
- Enlisted with Marines for Boot Camp
- Move out of house 5 months after 18th birthday
- 15 homes with a 3 year old and 1 year old month old
- Drugs, multiple arrests, fines



Our Story....

Youth Celebrations:

High school Diploma

Provided Safety and Modeling
Ongoing Resource when stuck

Parent Celebrations

Indirect Rainbows/Unicorns with

High Fidelity Wrap

Family Support Partner

Hopeful to be making an Impact



Our Bananas....

- No Break
- Lack of Sleep
- Afraid for Own Safety
- Afraid for Child's Safety
- Time
- Support Structure gone or far away
- Financial Concerns
- Text Message Reviews
- Note to Husband



We could never understand how professionals could work with these issues then it dawned on us:

They get to go home at night



Debrief Banana Barometers



You can do ANYthing for a little while.



If you carry your burdens all the time,
sooner or later you will become a little
bananas.



How Can We Better Engage with Families?





Banana Barometer Thoughts

Five Essential QUESTIONS

Substitute “family” for “students”



Banana Barometer Thoughts

Find the Family's Banana Yellow Piano

Start Easy: Engage: First Name

Ask, then really listen!

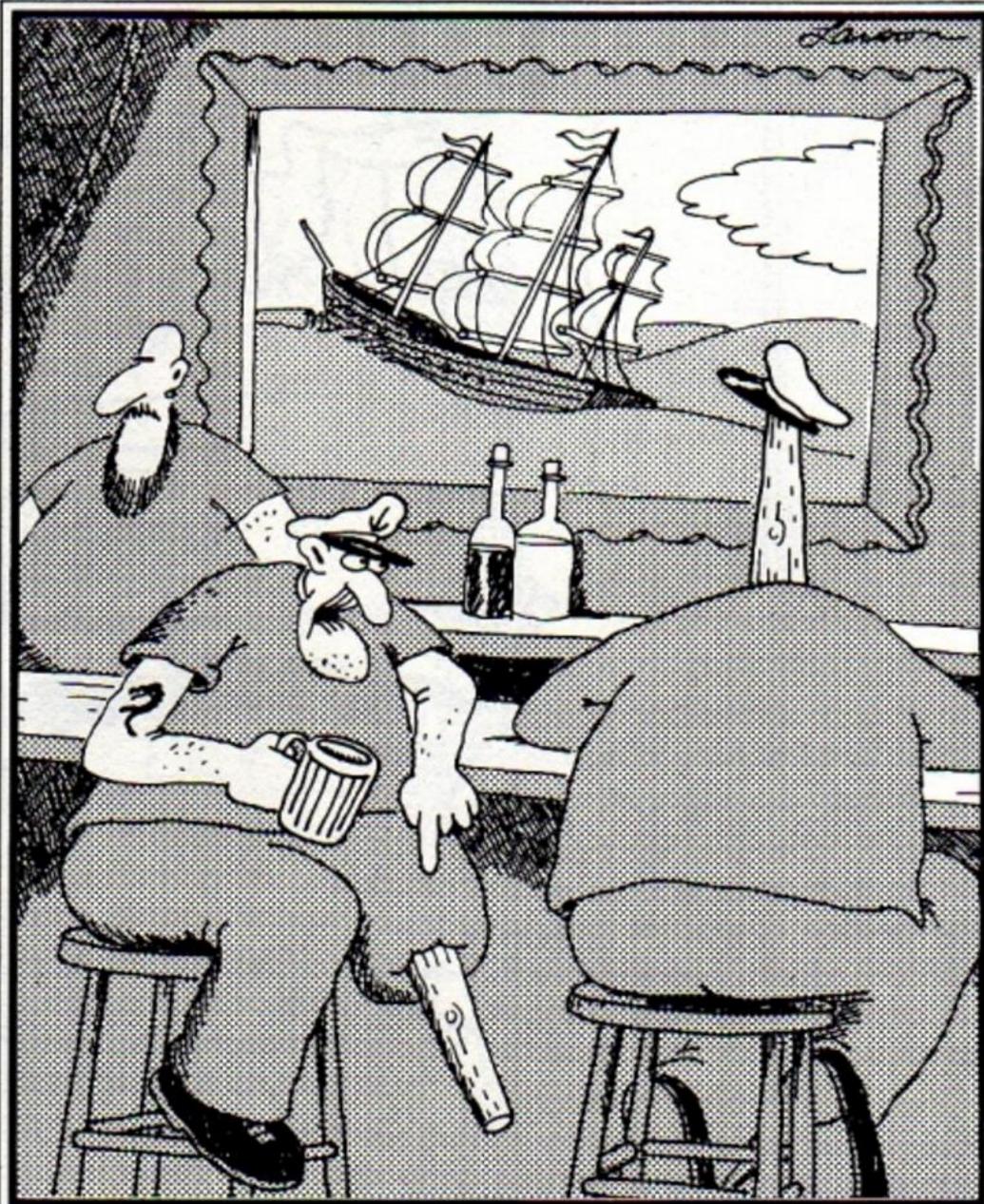
1. How are YOU?
2. Are you Safe? Sleep? Finances
3. What do YOU need?
4. What's in your way?
5. How can I help?



How can we be a source for our families to help put the bananas down?

Practice finding their
Banana Yellow Piano and
make it ALL ABOUT THEM





"Well, I guess that ain't a bad story—but let me tell you about the time I lost *this!*"



Banana Barometer Thoughts

Engage: Tools to Manage Bananas

- THEIR needs, not yours
- Empathy, Remember the Bananas
- Training
- Meet them where they are
- Team/Parent Support Partner
- Respite





Everyone has a Banana Yellow Piano

It may look a little off to you,
but it makes sense to someone

- Find it with your Families
- Meet them where they are
- Ask the tough questions
- Make it all about THEM



Thank you!

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