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**Has the Traumatic Past of Neglecting Parents Been Overlooked by Interventions Focused on Child Neglect?**

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Child Abuse and neglect is a major social problem worldwide. However, child neglect is somewhat "neglected", even though it is the most common type of child maltreatment, with potentially devastating consequences. The literature describes many barriers regarding professional intervention by child welfare professionals with families whose children are neglected.

Many risk factors have been identified regarding the occurrence of child neglect: Poverty, unemployment, past abuse or neglect, depression, family violence, substance misuse, loneliness, and social alienation amongst others. Several evidence based interventions for working with neglecting parents can be found in the literature, many of which are home-based, short term interventions which emphasize the acquisition of parenting knowledge and skills.

However, looking at neglecting parents through trauma-aware lens, it is notable that many of them are survivors of childhood traumas, a past which may be very present in their current functioning as parents. Trauma informed practice might call for a different focus for the professional intervention: one which creates a long term partnership with parents that recognizes and attempts to deal with their emotional barriers to good-enough parenting rather than focusing on lack of knowledge or skills. Recently, an attempt to conceptualize an intervention (a cooperation between Rashi foundation, Ministry of Welfare and Social Services and the Fund for Development of Services for Children and Youth at Risk at the National Insurance Institute of Israel), which has been implemented in Israel for the past four years has pointed to this lacuna in the professional literature, as will be discussed.