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Working with Gender Variant Children using a Multi-System Approach

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Gender variant children and youth are often misunderstood by others. This misunderstanding also extends to the family system, the school systems and other social systems. They are often brought to mental health professional for "fixing the problem". The children and youth lack of voice to evocate for themselves, and the professionals are trying to develop a treatment plan that is tailored for others but the children and youth. This presentation is to state the problems that mental health professional may make with this vulnerable group of population. This writer also suggests using multi-system approach in working with gender variant children youth.

Dr. Wallace Wong is a registered psychologist both in British Columbia, Canada, and California, USA. He was one of the reviewers on Caring for Transgender Adolescents in BC: Suggested Guidelines. He is a member of the CPATH (Canadian Professional Association of Transgender Health). He has been working with children and youth with sexualized behaviors since 1998. He has just written a chapter on using multi-system approach in working with gender variant children and youth; for a book named Trans Activism: A Canadian Reader and Practical Guide