

# Exercise

1. In small groups, describe what you understand by the terms **addiction** and **dependence**.
2. Join the large group for some broader discussion about these terms, how they are used and the extent to which definitions are shared across disciplines and by parents.
3. In small groups again, consider how addiction and dependence may impact upon a parent's ability to care in relation to each of the dimensions of parenting capacity (see below for some examples). Be ready to feedback to the wider group in relation to at least one of these dimensions.
  - Basic care
  - Ensuring safety
  - Emotional warmth
  - Stimulation
  - Guidance and boundaries
  - Stability

## Examples of what you might consider:

### Basic care giving

How might **addiction** affect basic care giving?

*Poor diet as a result of family income being used to fund addiction.*

How might **dependency** affect basic care giving?

*Missed meals due to parents' compulsion to purchase substance in favour of food for the child.*

### Safety

How might **addiction** affect safety?

*Parent taking risks in leaving child with unsuitable babysitter whilst they go out to the pub.*

How might **dependence** affect safety?

*Parent leaving child unsupervised whilst they go out in search of substances.*

further

Impact of substance misuse  
on parenting capacity

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