

**If you want to help a child
change a
negative behavior pattern:**

Try changing these
5 problematic
perspectives
on behavior

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The child as an individual

In western culture we focus so highly on the individual that we forget that all people exist in contexts.

If we want to help a child, we must always reflect on the child's story and the way their worlds engage them.

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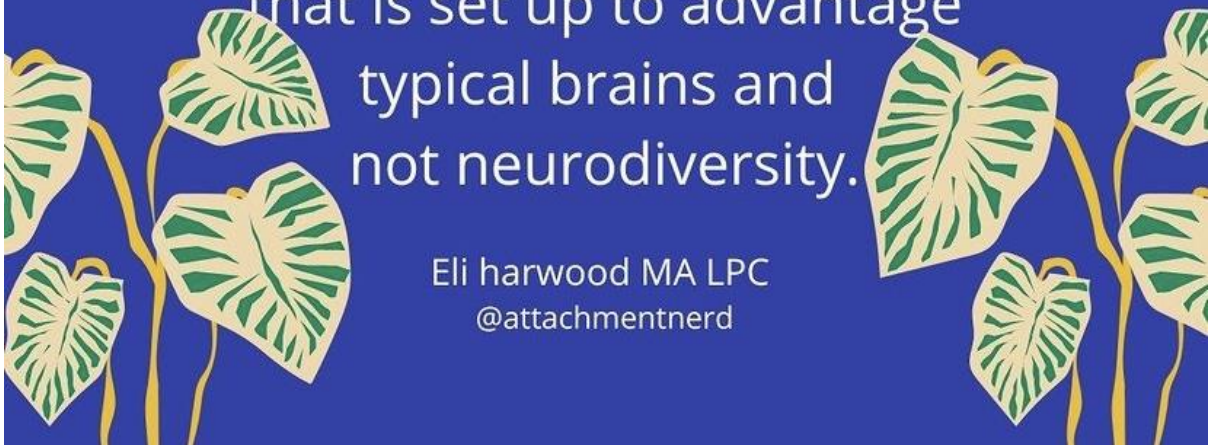


The child as typical

When we hold children to standards we often forget that many children are not neuro-typical.

These kids are not broken, but they present challenges in schools, homes, and culture that is set up to advantage typical brains and not neurodiversity.

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Behavior a la carte

Behavior is always connected
to meaning and feeling.

If we don't look for a why behind
the what and only try to change
a child's actions, we don't give them
the chance to be understood and
get their unmet needs
addressed.

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Punishment as necessity

Children learn all sorts of things without punishment. The idea that they cannot learn effective behavior without punishment is erroneous and often actually contributes to their acting out as they have increased fear and shame.

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Children as adults

Children who are acting out are not children who know how to do better. They lack impulse control, or are struggling with a trauma, or have an undiagnosed neurodivergence etc. A child acting out is a child needing help not judgment.

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