



# Rethinking Challenging Behaviors

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**PLEASE  
SILENCE  
YOUR MOBILE  
PHONE  
AND OTHER DEVICES**





❖ Challenging Behaviors

❖ Documentation

❖ Before/After a Report

❖ Legal Considerations

❖ Mitigation

❖ ACEs

❖ Attachment Issues



# Definitions...

Abuse, Neglect, and/or Household Dysfunction

- ❖ Violence

- ❖ Substance Dependence

- ❖ Mental illness

- ❖ Separation or Divorce

- ❖ Incarceration

- ❖ Unstable housing

- ❖ Loss of a caregiver





# Legal definitions of abuse and neglect

- Tennessee law defines this as “suffering from or in immediate danger of suffering from injury, disability, or physical or mental conditions caused by brutality, neglect, other actions, or inactions of parent, relative, guardian or caretaker.” (TCA 37-1-102).
- Virginia law defines abuse and neglect when a child “would be subject to an imminent threat to life or health.” (VA Code 16.1-251).
- Tennessee law has multiple levels of criminal charges: injury, imminent danger, or adversely affecting child's health can be a felony or misdemeanor depending on age. (TCA 39-15-401).
- Virginia has two levels of criminal abuse: a class 4 felony (2-10yrs) involving serious injury and a class 6 felony (1-5 yrs) involves a reckless disregard for human life (VA Code 18.2-371.1)



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# Examples of abuse and neglect

- Tennessee gives examples in the code section: starvation, dehydration, sex offense, assault, allowing child to be alone with a sex offender (TCA 39-15-401).
- Virginia gives examples in the statute itself of abuse: fracture, burn, disfigurement as well as types of neglect: failure to provide supervision, food, shelter, clothing, medical care, access to firearm (VA Code 18.2-371.1, 16.1-228, 63.2-100, and 22VAC40-705-30)
  - Child in the road unsupervised
  - Children living in a van
  - Child's teeth are so decayed and need replacement
  - Exposing child to drugs, like residue on a bathroom sink
  - Other examples?



# Statistics Regarding Prevalence

- **Nationally, neglect is the most common form of abuse.** Three-fourths (74%) of victims are neglected, 17% are physically abused, 11% are sexually abused, and 0.2% are sex trafficked per the National Children's Alliance
- In substantiated child abuse cases, **76% of children were victimized** by a parent or legal guardian.



# ACEs are Traumatic

- ❖ Food insecurity,
- ❖ Social Rejection and Bullying,
- ❖ Racism and Discrimination,
- ❖ Poverty
  - ❖ Relational Poverty



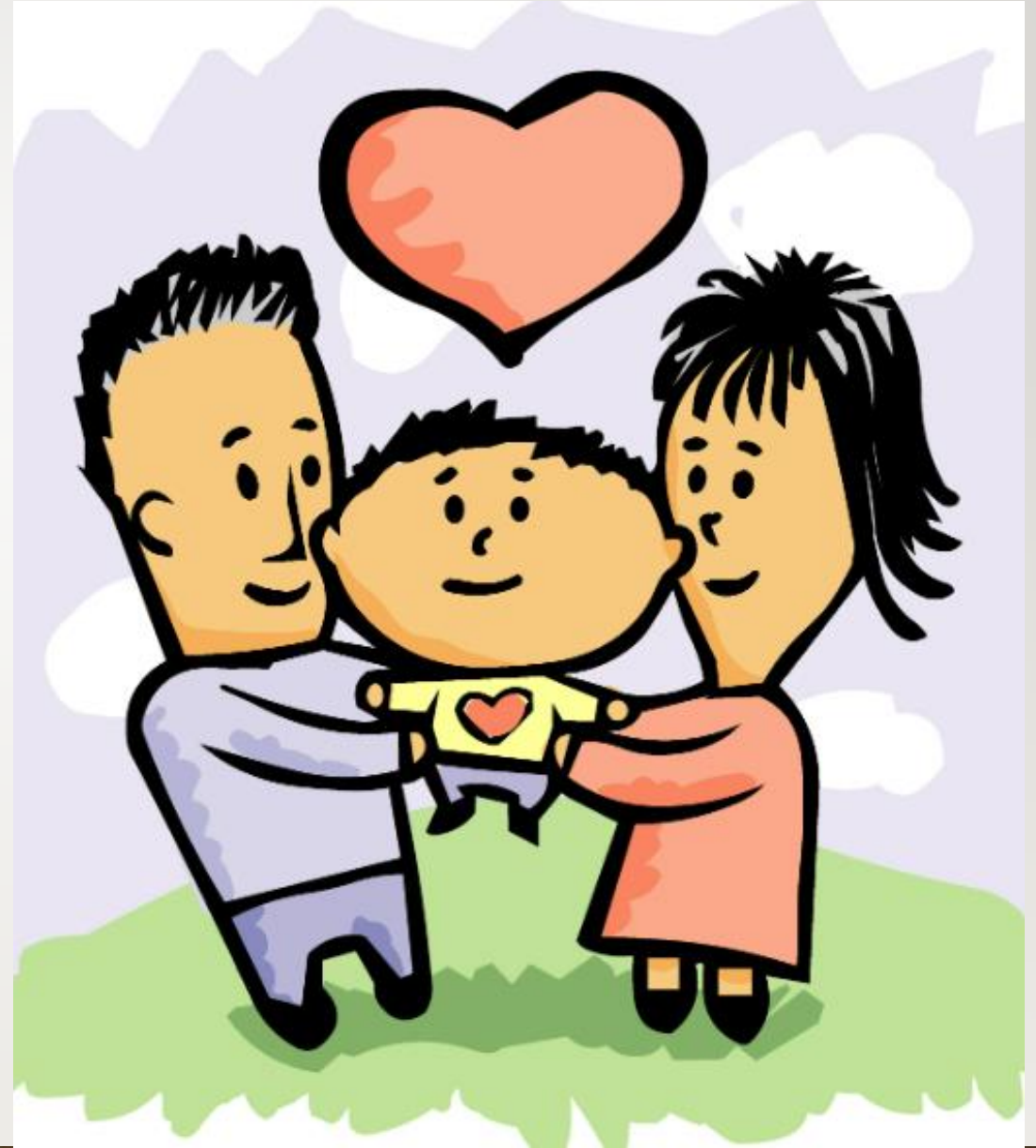


# What's an ACE Score?



# ACEs

- ❖ Relationships
- ❖ Secure Attachments
- ❖ Inner Map
  - ❖ Love
- ❖ Live
  - ❖ Play
- ❖ Learn
  - ❖ Parent
- ❖ Work
  - ❖ Lead





# ACEs and ADHD

- In a 2017 study, it was concluded that "Children with ADHD have higher ACE exposure compared with children without ADHD. There was a significant association between ACE score, ADHD, and moderate to severe ADHD. Efforts to improve ADHD assessment and management should consider routinely evaluating for ACEs." (Brown, et al., 2017).
- "ACE and ADHD are also intricately linked. Children with ADHD have higher risks for ACE exposure and those with greater number of ACEs experience more severe ADHD symptoms." (Ghoshal, 2022).
- "Childhood trauma and negative memory bias (ie, remembering bad memories rather than good) also advances the onset, severity, and long-term persistence of ADHD and other mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression." (Ghoshal, 2022).
- Something to consider for educators: "Is this child's difficulty with concentration due to neurodevelopmental factors beyond his/her control or is there something happening in the child's life that is intrusive and making it difficult to pay attention?" (Ghoshal, 2022).

# Life's Beauty is Inseparable from its Fragility





# Screen Time verses Family Time







*Social-Emotional Learning is part of  
Academic Success*



# More Than 400,000 Children in Foster Care





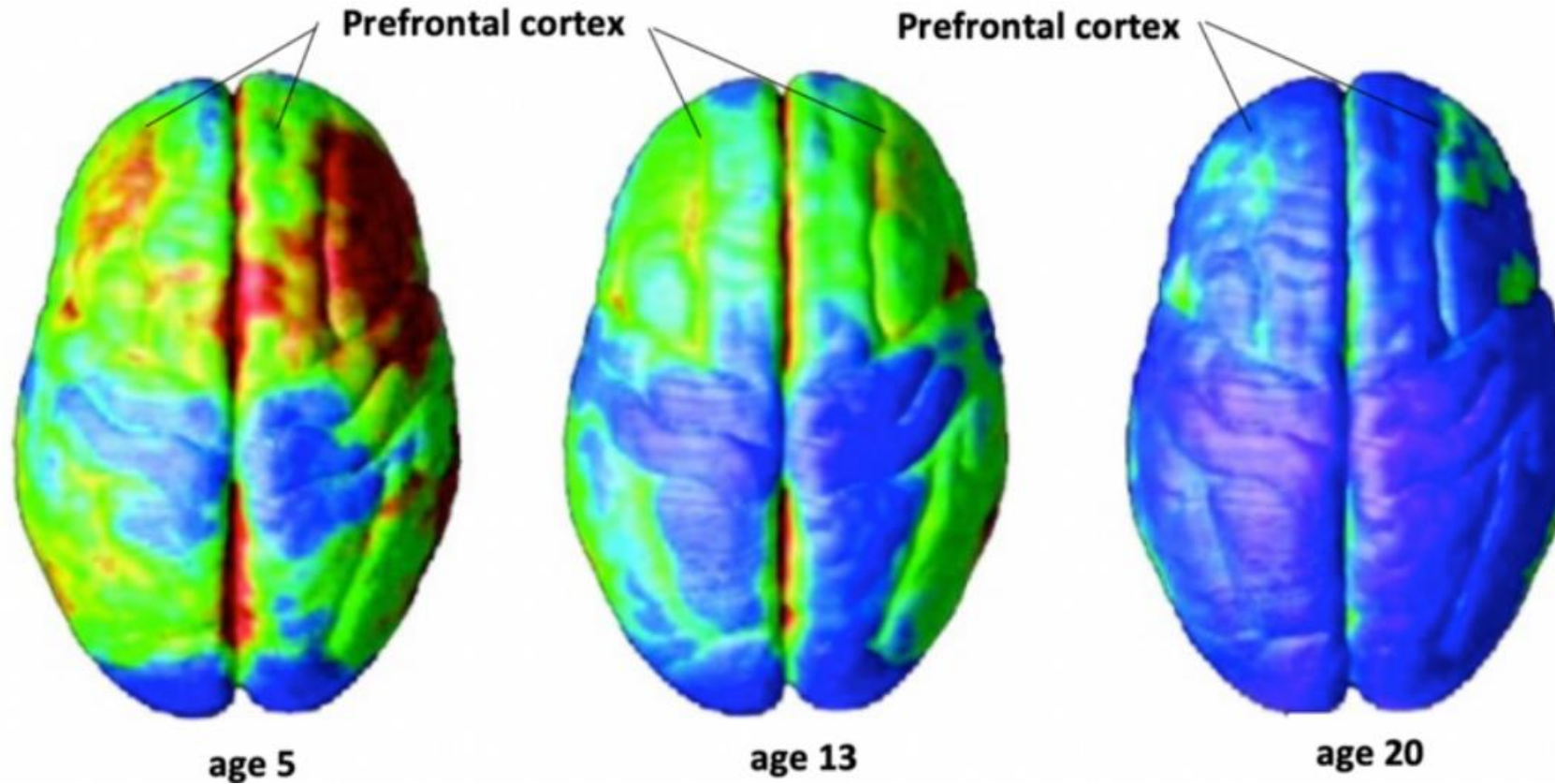
# More Than 400,000 Children in Foster Care

- ❖ Frustration
- ❖ Sadness
- ❖ Loneliness
- ❖ Unwanted and unloved
- ❖ Unmet Needs



# Impulse Control

# Executive Functioning



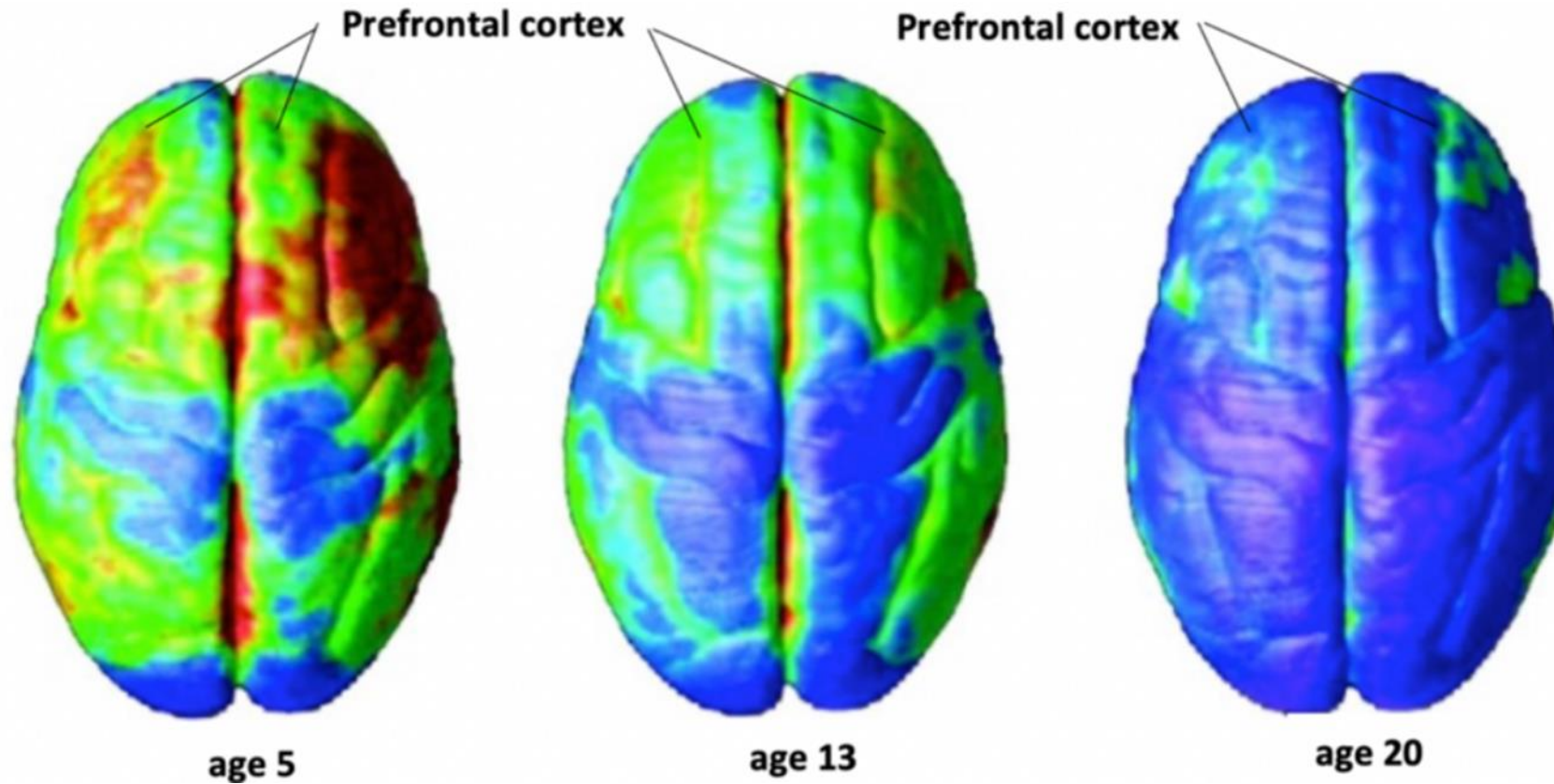
# Rational Thinking

# Learning



# Fight

# Flight



# Freeze

# Fawn



### 3. Self-Fulfillment Needs:

- ❖ Self-actualization
- ❖ Creativity
- ❖ Fulfilment,
- ❖ Morality
- ❖ Living your best life

### 2. Psychological Needs:

- ❖ Love and Belonging (family, sense of connection, meaningful relationships)

#### **Esteem**

- ❖ Status
- ❖ Respect (self-respect, respect from others)
- ❖ Confidence
- ❖ Achievement
- ❖ Recognition

### 1. Physiological Needs:

- ❖ Sleep,
- ❖ Air,
- ❖ Water,
- ❖ Food,
- ❖ Shelter,
- ❖ Clothing
- ❖ Warmth

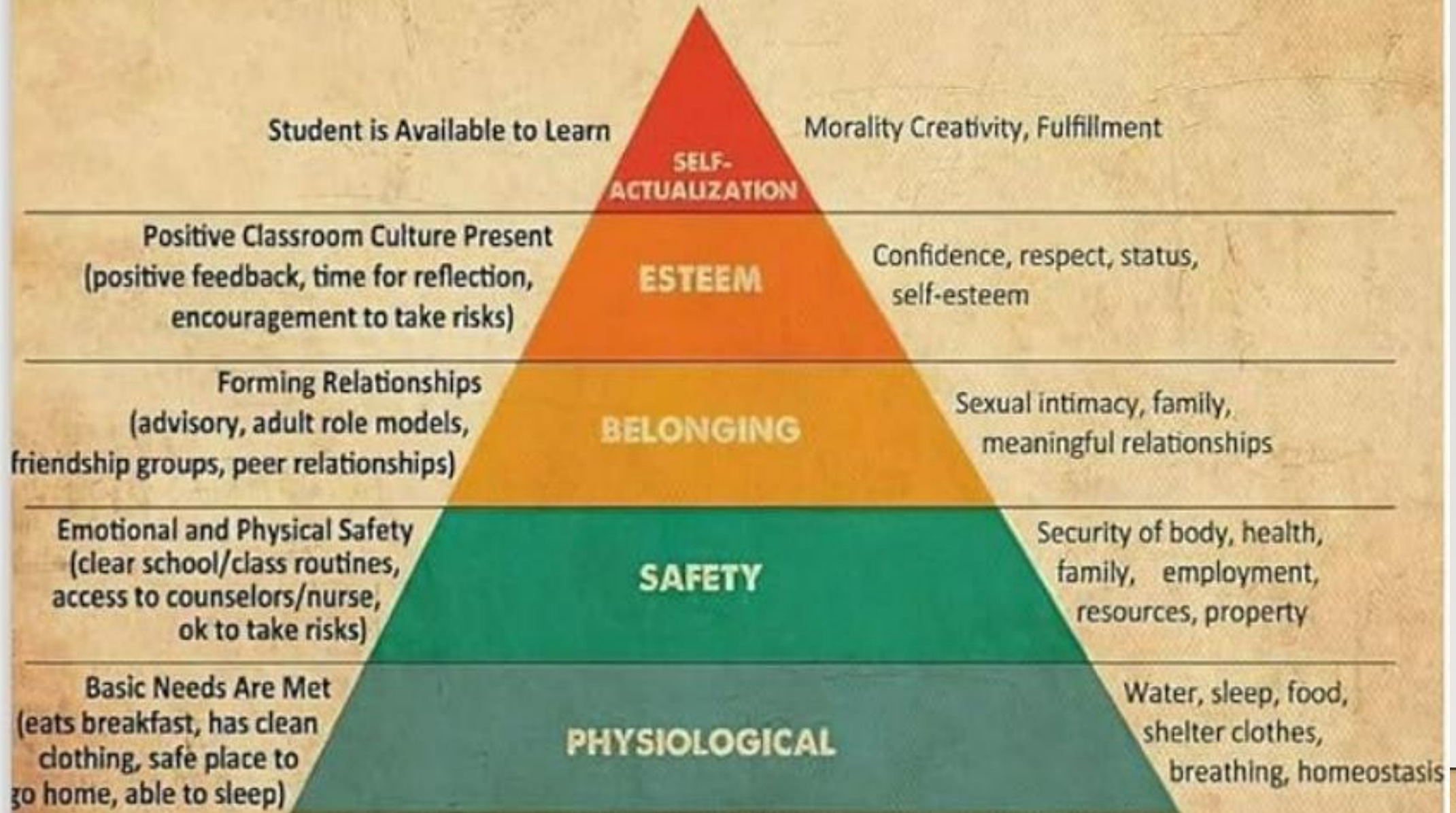
#### **Safety Needs:**

- ❖ Resources (money, property)
- ❖ Security
- ❖ Stability
- ❖ Health

# MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



# MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



# Document your Observations (1 of 3)

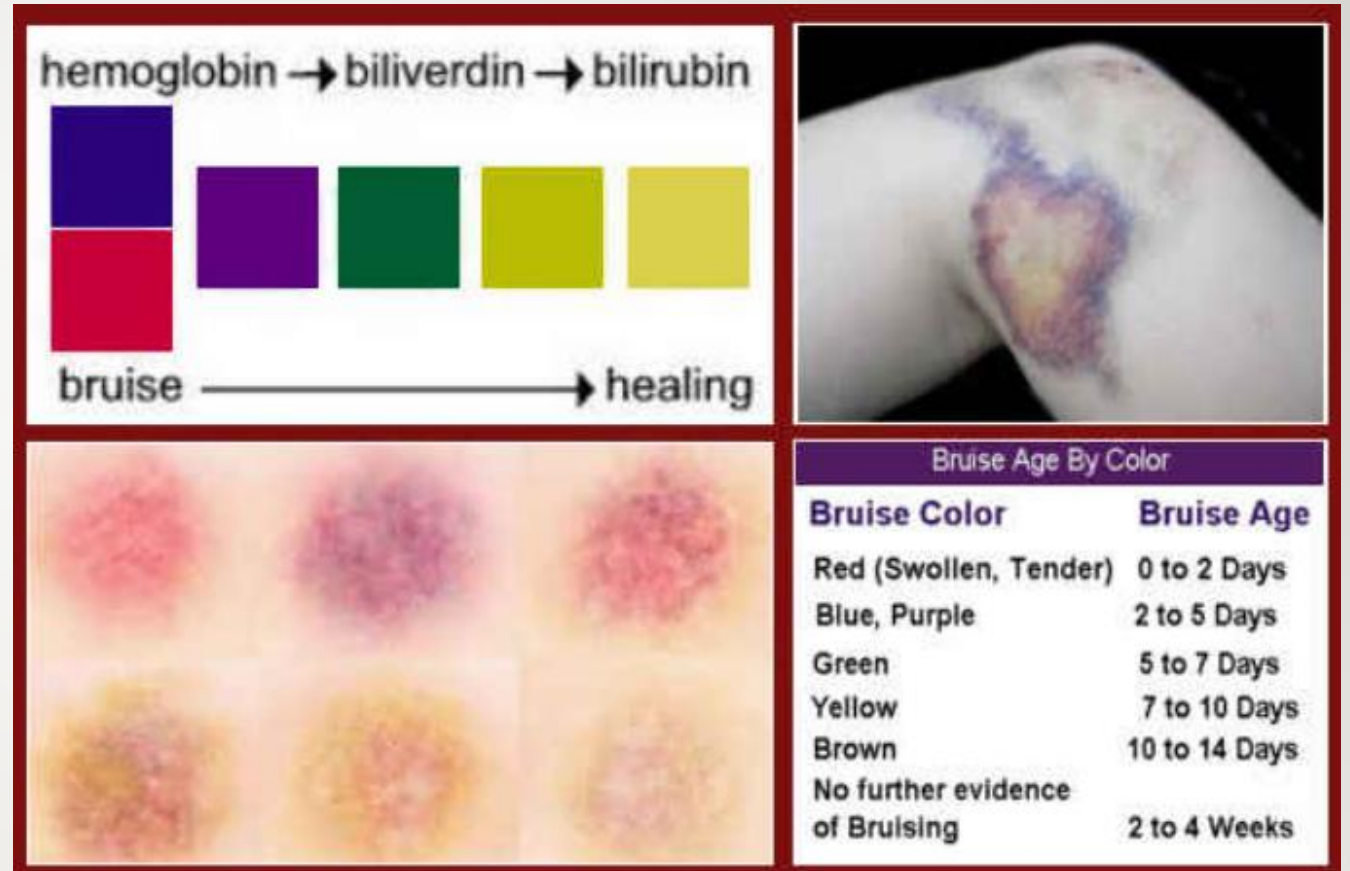
- ❖ If it wasn't written, it didn't happen.
- ❖ Sleeping in class
- ❖ Becoming withdrawn
- ❖ Same clothing
- ❖ Unclean
- ❖ Unbrushed hair





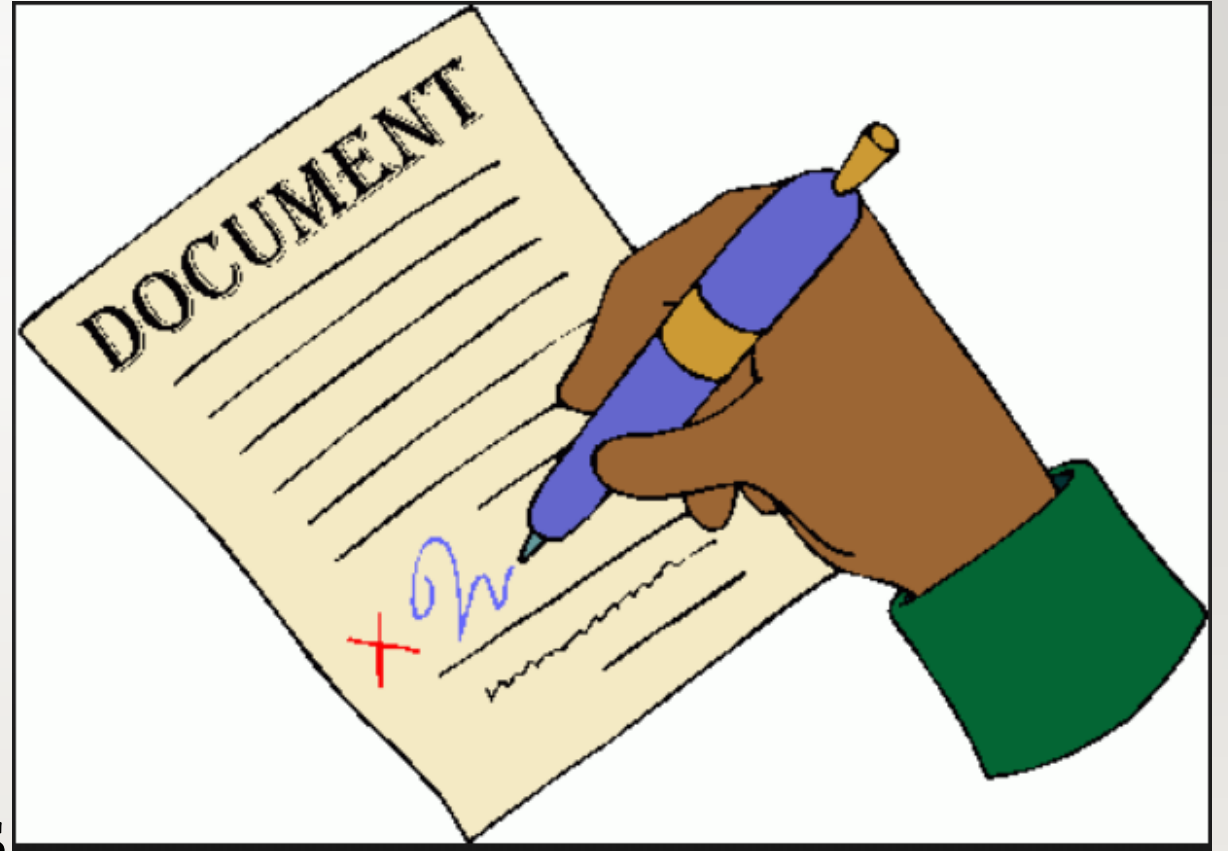
# Document your Observations (2 of 3)

- ❖ Suspicious Injuries
- ❖ TEN-4 Bruising Rule
  - ❖ Torso
  - ❖ Ears
  - ❖ Neck
  - ❖ 4 years old and younger



# Document your Observations (3 of 3)

- ❖ Document each concern
- ❖ Context
- ❖ Detail
- ❖ Date
- ❖ Pictures
  - ❖ Child's permission
  - ❖ Witness
  - ❖ Avoid Facial Pictures







- School District
- Law Enforcement
- Child Protection Services (CPS)

# AFTER REPORTING

- Investigation by multi-disciplinary team including law enforcement, DSS, medical personnel
- Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) do forensic interviews and give support
- Crisis teams to ensure all agencies are aware and resources being provided
- Guardians *ad litem* are attorneys and investigate and represent the child's best interest and are an advocate for child when legal proceedings have begun
- CASAs are volunteers to investigate and also advocate for the child







Civil cases	Criminal cases
Foster care for abuse and neglect	Child is charged with things such as truancy, running away, underage possession, destruction of property, assault
Custody cases between parents, grandparents, or other guardians	Parent, guardian, or other family member is charged with a crime





# Legal considerations

- **Custody:** Code of Virginia 20-124.3: Best interests of a child considerations include: age, physical and mental condition of child and parents. Relationships between child and parents, between parents such as unreasonably denying other parent access or ability to cooperate and resolve disputes.

# Abuse & Neglect/Foster Care Timeline

29

Stage 1: Ex parte hearing for emergency removal; review: three days in TN; five days in VA; adjudication, disposition. Reasonable efforts have to be made to prevent removal.

Stage 2: Four-month hearing for foster care review

Stage 3: Five-month hearing for permanency planning. Note that federal law requires reasonable efforts to reunite the child with her parents, guardian or other person standing in loco parentis.

Stage 4: Permanency for children is desired between one year and 14 months. After permanent goal ordered review placement

2014

January							February							March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
April							May							June						
30	31	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	1	2	3	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
July							August							September						
29	30	1	2	3	4	5	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31	1	2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
October							November							December						
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	30	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

trauma responses  
can look  
like:

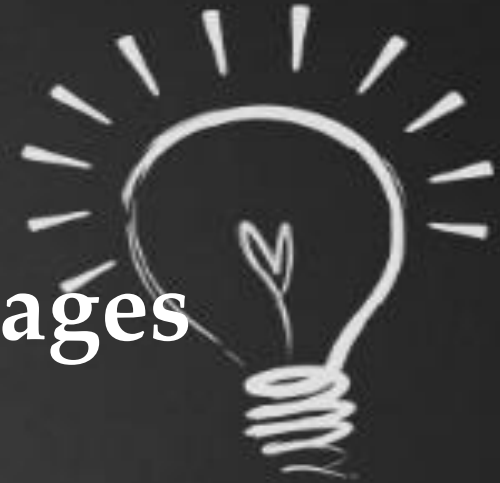


- Depression
- Anxiety
- Aggression
- Suicide Risks
- Personality Disorders
- Substance Use Disorders
- Health Problems



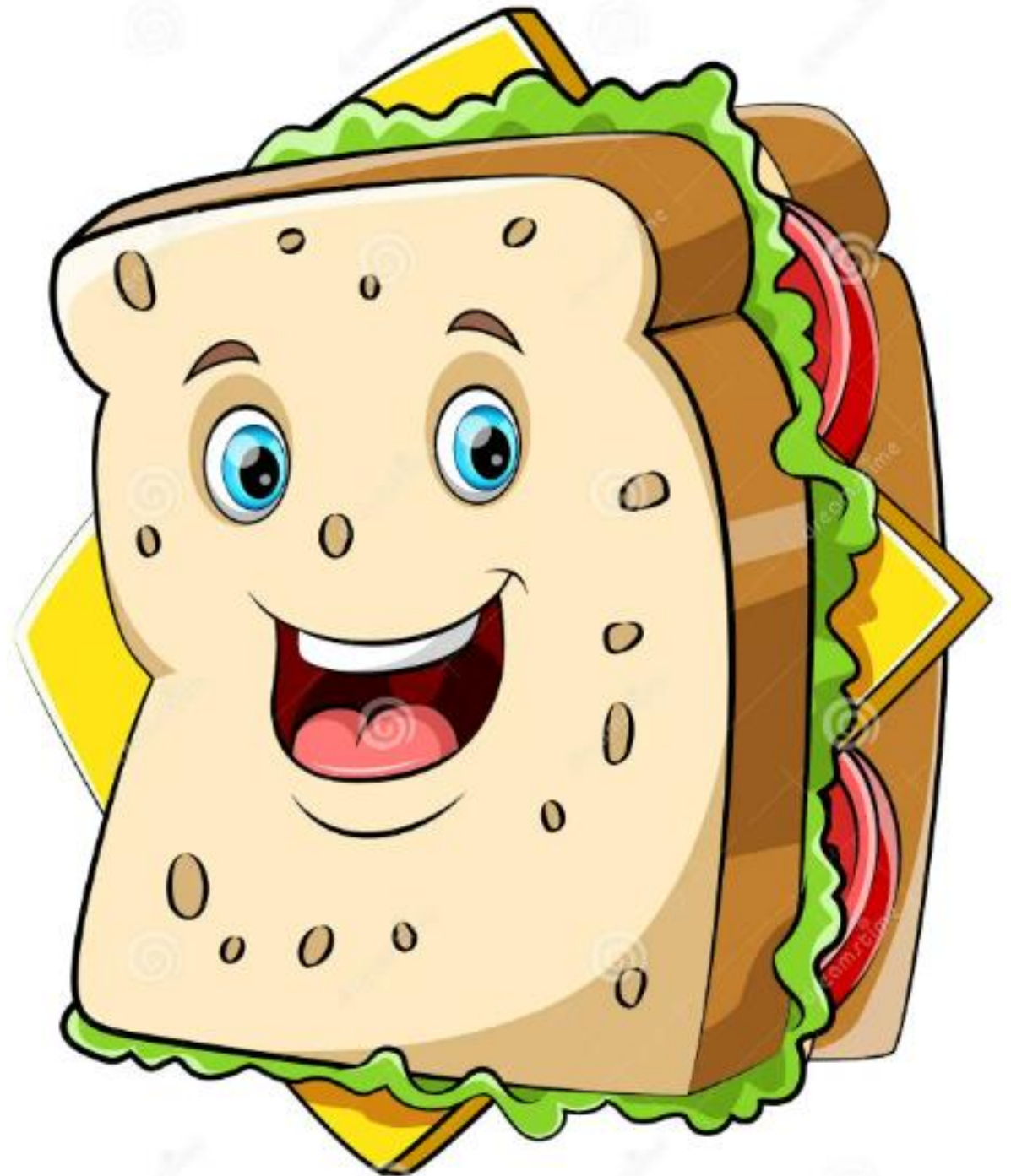
# How Can We Mitigate This?

- ❖ Smile
- ❖ Bright Colors & Positive images
- ❖ DO NOT YELL!
- ❖ School Social Worker  
(shameless plug 😊)
- ❖ Flexibility



# Sense of Belonging

- Empathy
- Kindness & Compassion
- Unconditional Positive Reg.
- Positive Culture
- Grading





# Adopt Trauma-Free, Non-Violent Language

Instead of

- Let's pull the **trigger** on the project

Instead of

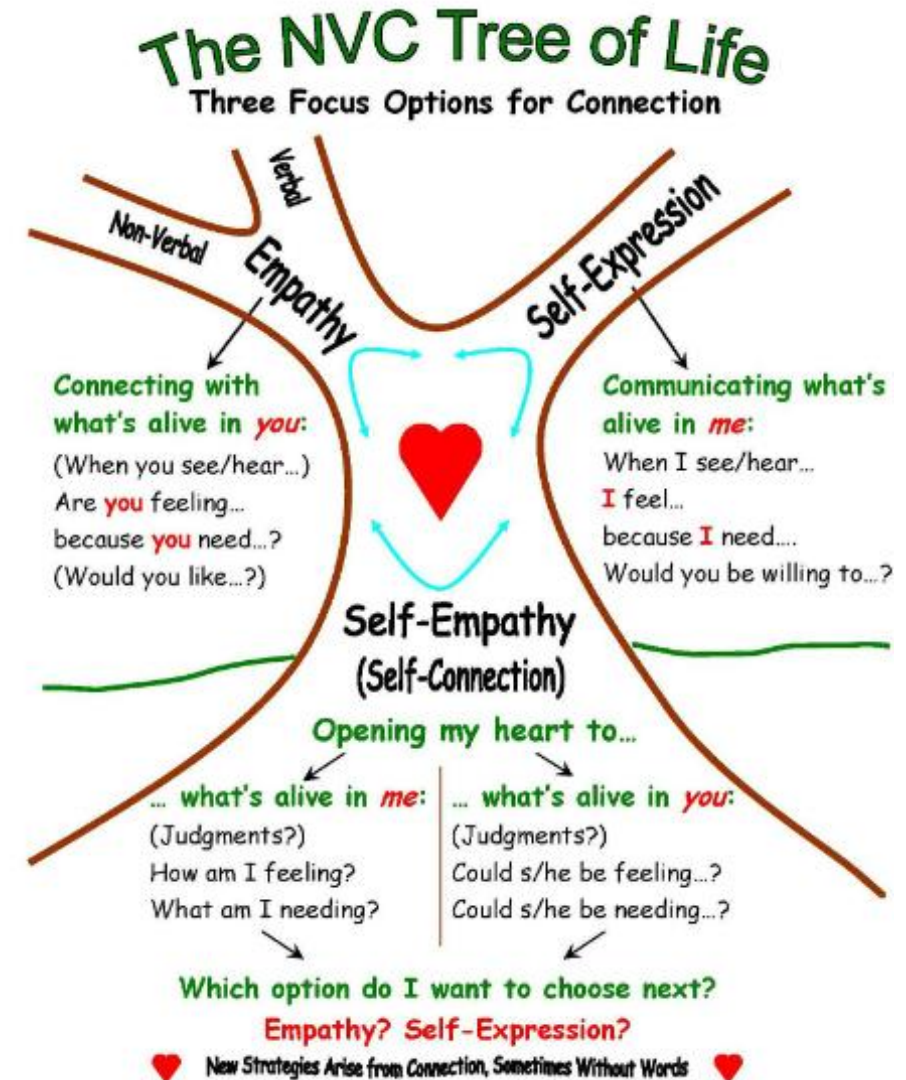
- The **deadline** for the assignment is...

Consider saying:

- Let's **launch the project**

Consider saying:

- The **due date** for the assignment is...



A black background with the word "Questions?" in a large, white, serif font. Numerous smaller white question marks are scattered around the main text.



**Please share your own  
examples and insights  
on things you have  
done to mitigate these  
problems that children  
face in these situations**



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- Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS):

877-237-0004 or online at:

<https://apps.tn.gov/carat/>

- Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) Child Abuse hotline:  
800-552-7096

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