# Think past the plate

Charity Hackett Food Service Coordinator Berrien County Juvenile Center



Guidance counselor/food service professional/Advocate/ Mama bear??????

# Learning Goals

- Understand the relationship between behaviors and emotional and mental health in youth.
- Understand there are differences between intentional miss-behavior and behavior as a stress response.
- Learn early interventions and how to respond skillfully to unwanted behaviors.
- Learn how to build resiliency in children.

## Not your typical lunch lady any more!



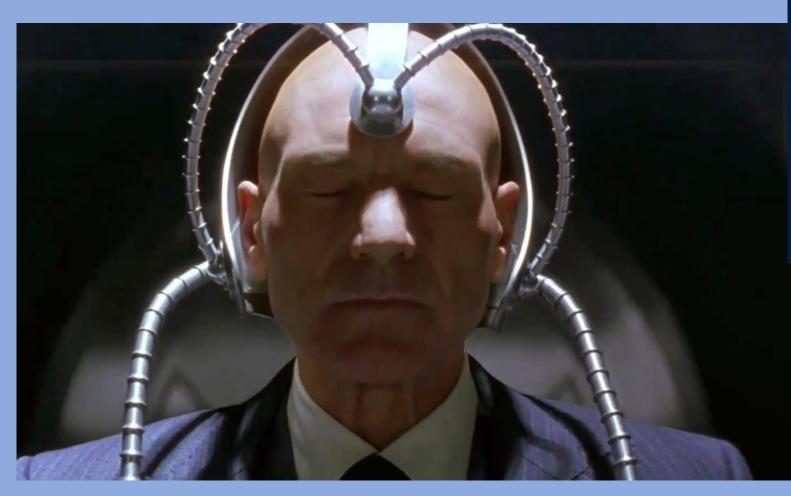


You know their habits, their friends, their routine.

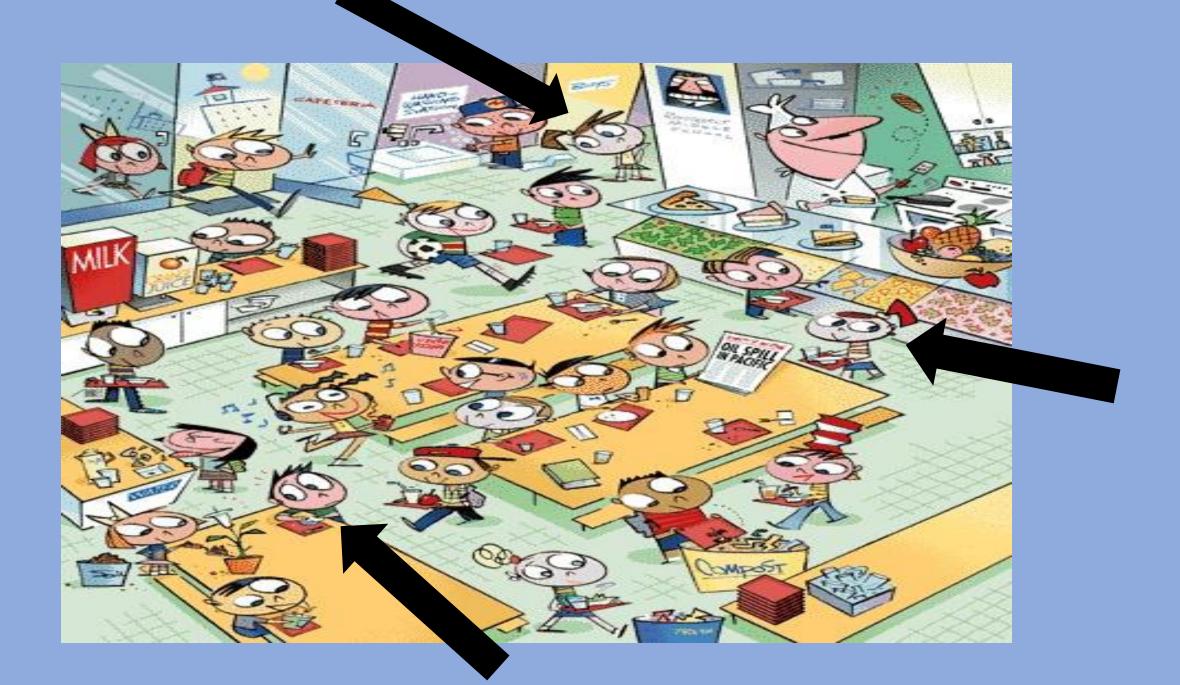


# Why do we know this????

# Master pattern readers



**UNA UNA** LADY WHAT'S YOUR **SUPERPOWER?** 



"I'm not emotionally developed"

## My Behavior isn't always willful

"I'm just trying to communicate!"

"I don't even know whe even crying?", Vim

# **Behavior is**

influenced by.....

### **Emotional Health Impactors**



- Neglect in Infancy and Early Childhood
- Trauma/Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- Limited Emotion Regulation Skills
- Chronic Stress
- Lacking/Needing Emotional Connection for Adolescents

## Common reactions to trauma in youth

- Strong emotions
- Overreacting
- Aggression
- Ruminating
- Disturbed sleeping patterns
- Emotional withdrawal
- Isolation
- Protective of family and friends

- Behavior Regression
- Increased need for independence
- Self-absorption
- Loss of interest in life activities
- Pessimistic outlook on life
- Depression and feelings of hopelessness
- Difficulties with short-term memory, concentration and problem solving

#### When Pressured:

- Behaviors observed
  - Defiant
  - Non-compliant,
  - Shut down/ ignore
  - Refuse to respond

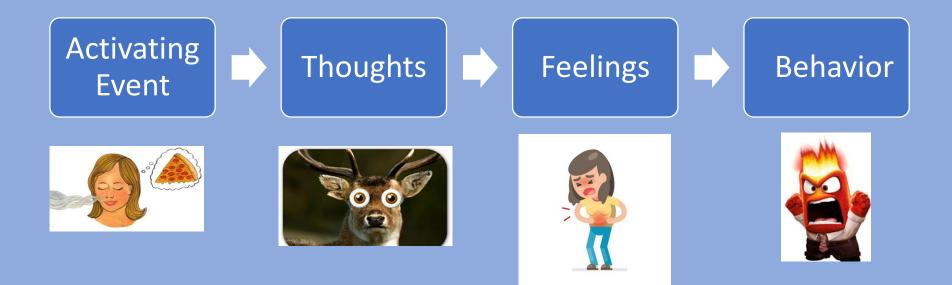


- What may be happening inside
  - Brain is frozen
  - Fight or Flight /Adrenaline

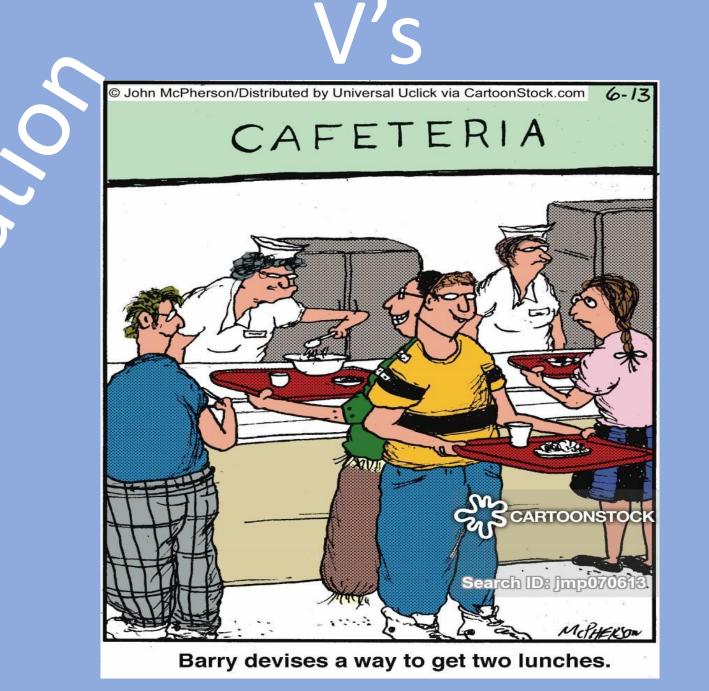




## How Feelings influence Behavior







# **Emotion Dysregulation**



#### Learned skil

Do we tell the toddler who skins his knee "Get over it?"

Emotional dysregulation (ED) is a term used in the mental health community to refer to an emotional response that is poorly modulated, and does not fall within the conventionally accepted range of emotive response.



Ways to Positively Influence Emotion Regulation.....

- Set limits with respect
- Provide Positive as well as Negative Consequences
- Be consistent
- Broken Record
- Regardless, Never-the-less

"Don't make a permanent decision for your temporary emotion."

Remain emotion neutral

# Provide Structure



DO NOT PUT METAL OR FOIL IN THIS OVEN



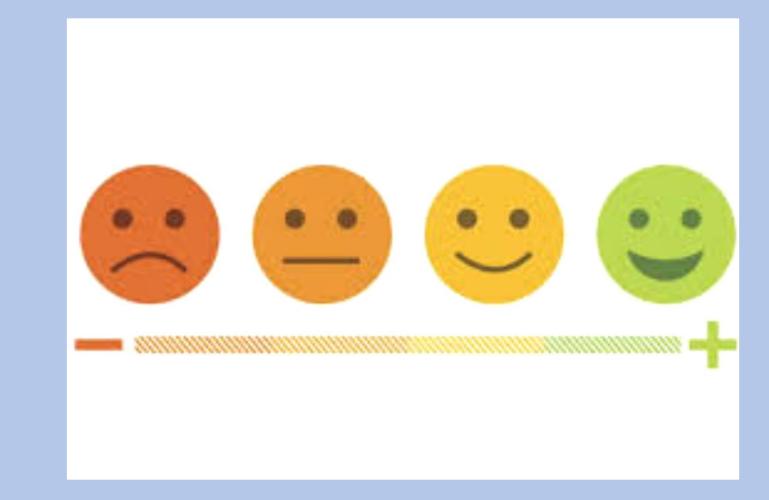
1. Stay in your seat. 2. Talk quietly. 3. Eat your own food. 4. Clean your mess. 5. Say kind things. 7. Line up quickly and quickly. **School-Wide Expectations:** Respect yourself. Respect others. Respect your school. Confetti Graphics

AREA WEAR EAR **FOOD AND BEVERAGES** IN LUNCHROOM ONLY SmartSign.com • 800-952-1457 • S-1918

HIGH

NOISE

### Learn to Regulate Emotions





## Breathing



# BALLOON

#### Step 1: Inhale Fully

2

Place your hands on your belly. Breath in slowly through your nose to fill your lungs all the way to the top, as you feel your belly, abdomen and chest expanding out like a big balloon...

#### Step 2: Exhale Fully

Now open your mouth and slowly blow all of the air back out of your lungs, letting your belly sink down flat, as if deflating that imaginary balloon. Repeat, but the next time close your mouth and practice breathing in, and out, through your nose, as you feel your belly expending and shrinking.

Little Twisters Yoga.com

#### Listen and Validate



A posture, or frame of mind, that's helpful to building and deeping a foundation of trust in your marriage.

#### LISTEN



Active, engaged listening is not just something you do with your ears. Your spouse will know you are truly listening when you listen with your entire being. You can show this by: making eye contact, leaning in, keeping your arms loose, asking clarifying questions, and restating what you've heard.



#### OPEN YOUR MIND

Put your initial judgments away and be willing to try, or entertain, something new. Concede that perhaps you don't have all the answers and that a new idea or point is worth consideration.

#### VALIDATE

In order to validate someone, you don't have to agree with him/her. Rather, you simply accept what he/she is feeling and seek to understand why he/she feels that way. It is possible to validate someone's feelings without accepting blame for those feelings. You're simply acknowledging that their feelings are real. The opposite of validation is judgment, rejection, and disregard.

#### EMPATHIZE

Put yourself in your spouse's shoes. If you see/feel/hear from his/her perspective, how does this broaden and change yours? Empathetic statements are caring, relating, validating, and supportive. They are not dismissive, critical, under-responsive, blaming, critical, or problem-solving.

## Role Model Good Behavior



# Praise



to

# Criticism





# Roll With Resistance



# 7 C's of Resiliency

## **Competence**

"I can cope with this!"

• Focus on Strengths and competencies

• Empower to make Decisions

"You are awesomesauce!"



Build a safe zone

Offer Specific Praise (5-1)

- Build on small successes
- Build a sense of safety (emotional and Physical
- Allow expression of ALL emotions/validation
- Foster Heathy Relationships

# 7 C's of Resiliency

#### **Character**

"Am I a good role model?"

Coping

"I don't like your behavior but I still love you!"

<u>Control</u>

"Would you like green beans or carrots today?"

- Demonstrate how Behaviors affect others
- Help to recognize self as a caring person
- Model positive coping strategies
- Help develop positive coping skills
- Don't condemn for negative behaviors
- Understand risky behaviors and /or maladaptive strategies as attempts to cope
  - Help youth to recognize their role in life's events, where they have control and where they do not
  - Help youth to achieve acceptance
  - Discipline is about teaching, not punishing or controlling; use discipline to help child understand actions and consequences
  - Love and nurturance is unconditional
  - Youth will live up to or down to expectations

# 7 C's of Resiliency



#### **Contribution**

"PAY IT FORWARD!"

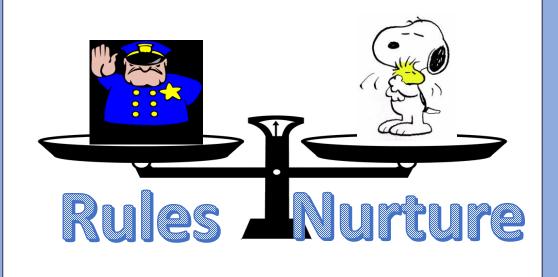
BE THE PERSON THAT Makes others feel Special. Be known for Your kindness and Sympathy. Model Generosity

• Create opportunities to contribute

HEYMISSAWESOME.TUMBLR

#### IT TAKES A VILLAGE

- 1. Know kids will act like kids.
- 2. Set limits with respect, not criticism.
- 3. Be aware of developmental stages.



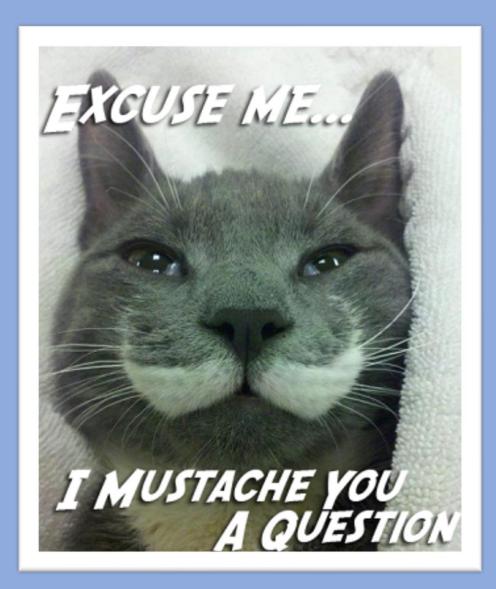
- 4. Know your kids temperament and personality.
- 5. Know when to talk and when to listen.
- 6. Understand that actions speak louder than words.
- 7. Recognize that connection, fun, and creativity are the best ways to promote positive behaviors and a cooperative attitude.

 ✓ Understand the many influencers of behaviors

 Ways to positively respond to unwanted behaviors

✓ How to build resiliency





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