

Therapist Neurodiversity Collective International

• Therapy • Advocacy • Education •

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How to be an Ableist Therapist

- Promote Autism Speaks.
- Use Puzzle Pieces to represent Autism in your advertisements or advocacy work.
- Use Function Labels.
- Use Person-First Language.
- Train Social Skills and teach Autistic people to mask. Deem it as a successful therapy outcome when they comply.
- Advertise as an 'Autism Trainer' or 'Autism Interventionist'.
- Promise relief from the 'suffering of Autism' with your therapy, app, program, or materials. Promise to reduce Autism 'symptoms,' and talk about cure so families will buy your product.
- Collaborate with BCBAs to implement ABA goals.
- Practice ABA yourself.
- Co-author books, therapy materials and therapy programs with BCBAs. And then advertise to families as a 'pro-neurodiversity therapist'.
- Violate body autonomy by using hand over hand with clients and don't ask for their consent.
- Withhold children's or the elderly's, TBI or Dementia patients' access to emotional comfort, physical comfort, food, drinks, favorite items, activities, personal belongings to gain compliance. Tell parents and families it's to help their loved one. Make the client earn everything.
- Continue to advertise as 'evidence based' or 'research based,' though the evidence you are touting is based on single case studies that even the U.S. Government calls poor research.
- Assign friends to Autistic school children and feel altruistic about it.
- Teach Whole Body Listening to Neurodivergent students. Demand that they do it.
- Promote your therapy model or program or framework or materials as 'compatible with ABA.'
- Do any of the above and advertise as a pro-neurodiversity' therapist, or practice.
- Speak over Autistic people voicing their perspectives. Believe that it's okay, because 'you are the Autism expert.'