

Shocking Pro-Neurodiversity Therapy Practices (You won't believe this!)

**Therapist
Neurodiversity
Collective** International

• Therapy • Advocacy • Education •
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We don't train Humans with Scooby Snacks



We do not force compliance through the earning of snacks, check-marks, behavior charts, stickers, access to favorite or personal items and objects, activities, or similar. We completely reject aversion therapy (punishment) for any situation, including withholding attention or affection, favored foods, activities, or objects.

We Presume Competence



Presuming connectedness and competence suggests that we involve ourselves with others as if we all make meaning of the world, as if we all have a rightful place in valued communities, as if we all think, and as if we all can continue to deepen and expand in our connectedness with the surrounding world. Presuming competence is the antithesis of the isolating, brutalizing, and dehumanizing consequences of presumed “nothingness.”

Kliewer, Christopher & Biklen, Douglas & Petersen, Amy. (2015). At the End of Intellectual Disability. Harvard educational review. 85. 10.17763/haer.85.1j260u3gv2402v576.

We Respect Body Autonomy



We don't touch clients without their consent. Period. We don't tickle, hug, push or pull. We don't use hand over hand. We don't force-feed. Respecting bodily integrity means respecting 'NO,' 'Stop,' and 'I don't want to.' It means not manipulating a client into doing what you want them to do. Infringement of body autonomy is unethical and a violation of human rights (Security of One's Person).

We don't train Social Skills



Compelling neurodivergent people to mimic neurotypical social skills steals self-determination and kills authentic communication. Social skills 'intervention' trains masking. The harms of masking (exhaustion, burnout, anxiety, depression, frustration, decreased self-esteem, suicidal ideation) are significant. Research we follow: Autistic Masking, The Double Empathy Problem, Diversity in Social Intelligence.

We believe that the use of ABA is a violation of Human Rights



Despite some industry changes in applied behavioral analysis practices and therapy models, ABA practices will always be based upon a foundation of compliance, coercion, and behaviorist principles. The fundamental goal of ABA is compliance to the will of the person in the position of authority; this is completely counter-intuitive to self-advocacy, self-determination, and upholding human rights and dignity.