



WHAT'S DRIVING MY CHILD'S BEHAVIOR?

ASSESSMENT

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How to target what needs are driving your child's behavior in order to help them drive in a positive way.

Certainty

The need for safety, stability, security, comfort, order, predictability, control and consistency.

Tips to meet these needs: be sure to communicate with your child about plans in advance and ensure they understand early if there is a change. They do not handle unexpected changes well so if an emergency happens, be prepared to handle it with grace to minimize any unfavorable behavior.

Contribution

The need to give beyond ourselves, give, care, protect and serve others.

Tips to meet these needs: your child likes to feel needed so use them as much as possible. Try to involve them in as much of your daily activities as possible. They do not handle perceived rejection well so if they come and you are doing something without them, expect for them to act out unless you are willing to give them a task so that they feel involved in what you're doing.

Growth

The need for constant emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

Tips to meet these needs: make everything about learning. Whether you are at home, on the road, or in the community, show them something they can learn in order to meet this need. You will be surprised how much you bond over simply pointing out something you both can learn and grow through together.

Love and Connection

The need for communication, unified, approval and attachment--to feel connected with, intimate and loved by other human beings.

Tips to meet these needs: be sure to listen to your child as much as possible. Observe how your child identifies love and connection. Some children like hugs and kisses while others just like to be near you. Listen to them, they will tell you what they need and how they need it.

Significance

The need to have meaning, special, pride, needed, wanted, sense of importance and worthy of love.

Tips to meet these needs: be sure to communicate how proud you are of your child. If they do something well, praise them for it. Just be careful and do not fill your conversation with vain praises as that will only hinder growth. Praise your child ONLY when they do something well. Acknowledge effort, however, praise execution.

Uncertainty or Variety

The need for variety, surprise, challenges, excitement, difference, chaos, adventure, change, and novelty.

Tips to meet these needs: be sure to add excitement to your day. You could hide a surprise in their lunches, come up with creative scavenger hunts that lead to a prize, or just about anything you can think of that will bring fun and excitement. Your child thrives in this environment so use it to your advantage.