



# *Sharing Developmental Security*

Helping children heal so they are ready to learn

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4/17/17  
WAY TO GROW

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*We look at the world once, in childhood.*

*The rest is memory.”*

— [Louise Glück](#)

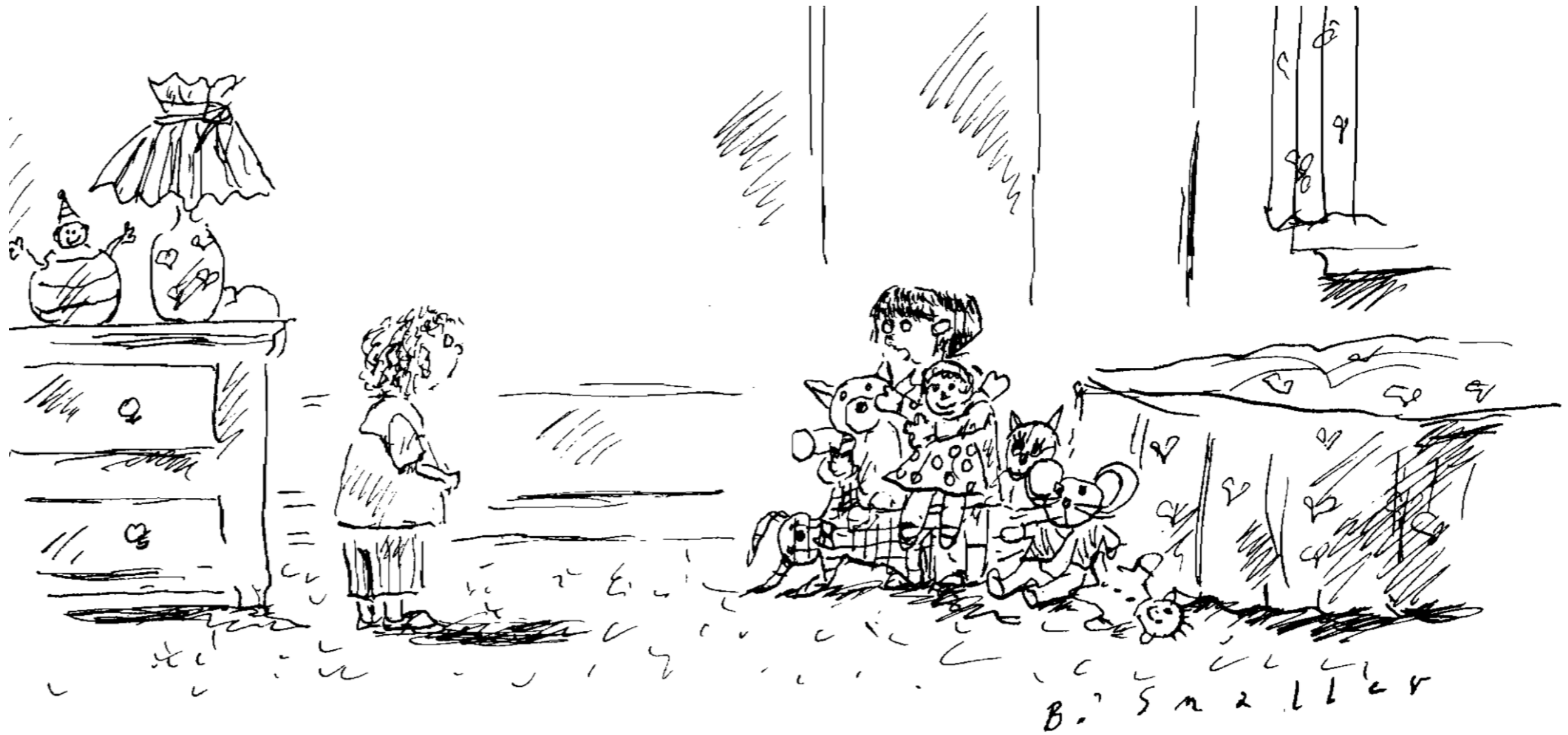
# What is development?

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• Development is wired into human bodies, pushing us to *grow up*.



Development happens in time...and over time.



*"I would share, but I'm not there developmentally."*

- Human growth requires touch and connection between child and caregivers (biological and psychological attachment).



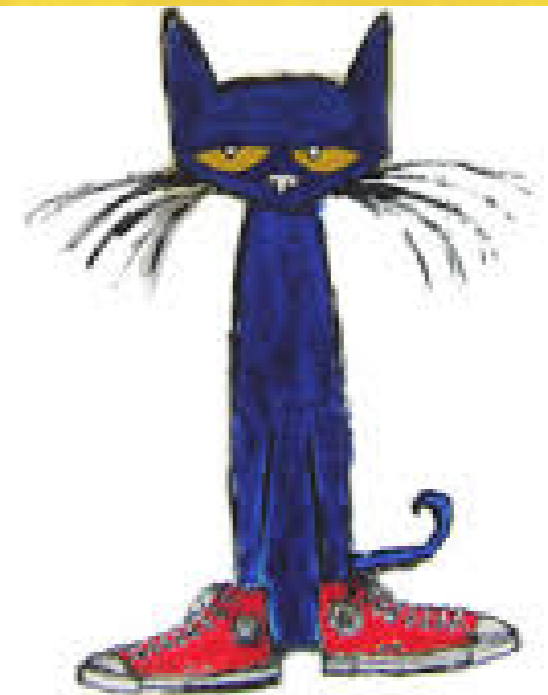
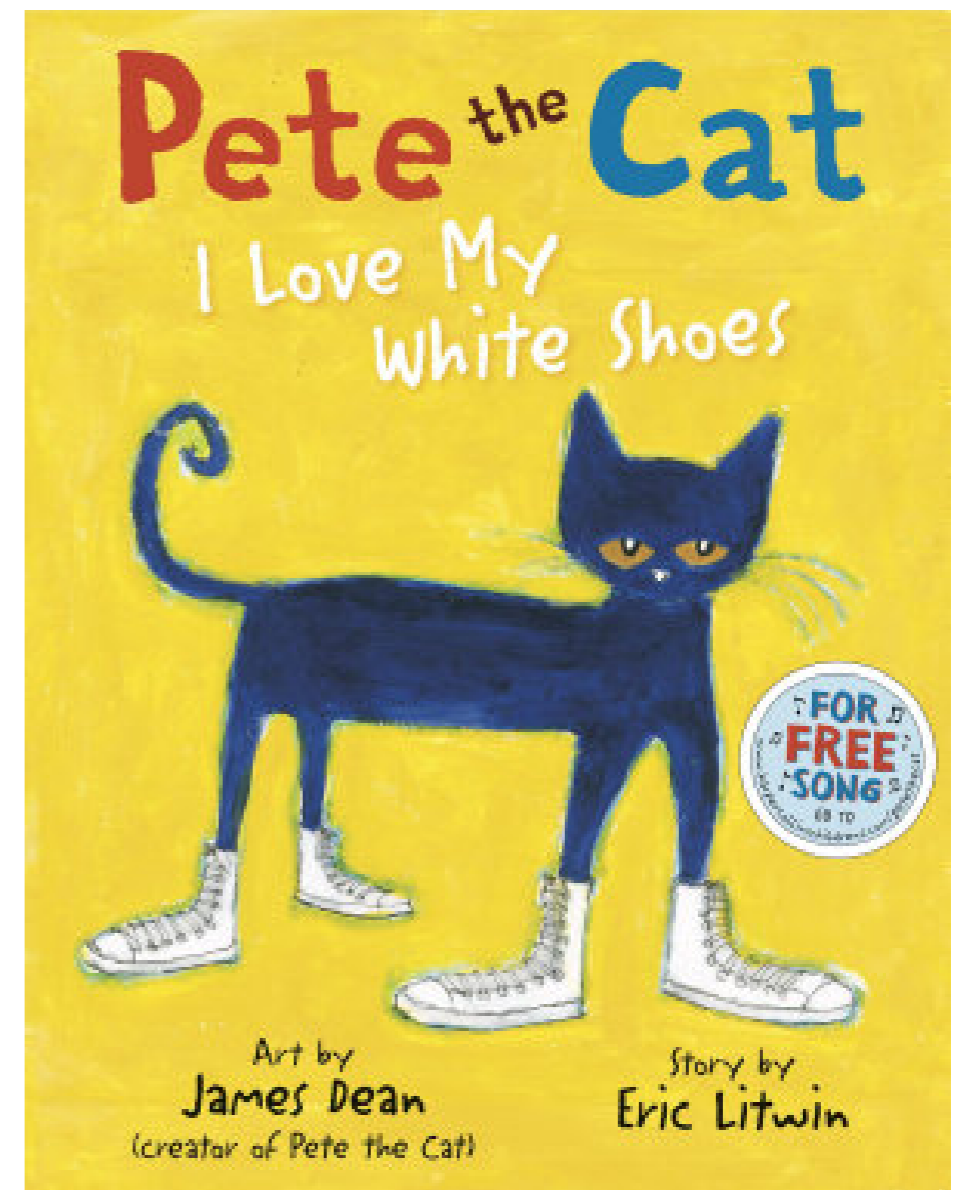
# Attachment is a two-way street

Single Slices / Peter Kohlsaat

I have to spend quality time with my parents or they'll become dysfunctional.



- Development is also about learning: *what can I expect, and how do I manage, what are the rules?* (social, cultural).



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Yet many children are blocked on this journey to adulthood. They lack developmental wellbeing, learning confidence and creative imagination to explore their possibilities.





Your support assures intentional efforts to build early developmental mastery.



But more is needed: let me explore several attitudinal shifts that better protect all children.



# 1. Impact of Scarcity

Mullainathan and Shafir, 20

- Financial resources
- Time resources
- Attention resources (bandwidth)

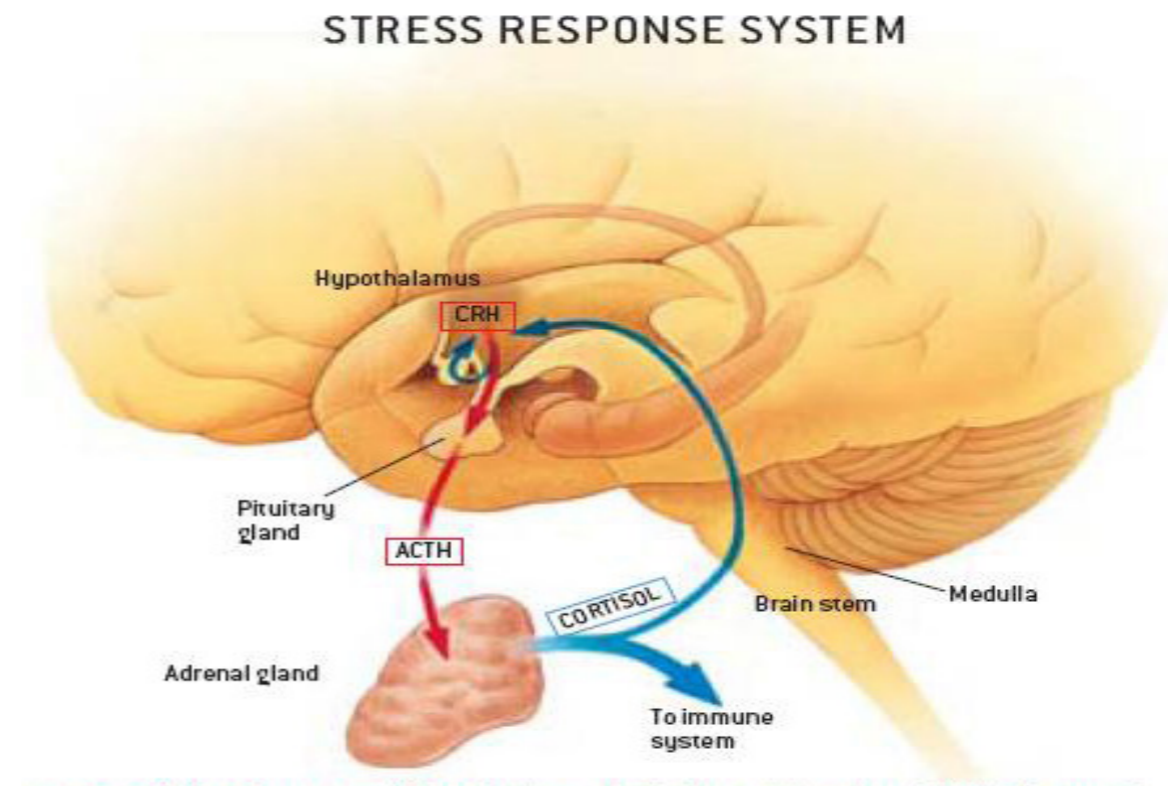
"TUNNELING IN ON THE  
URGENT..."

AT THE EXPENSE OF THE IMPORTANT."

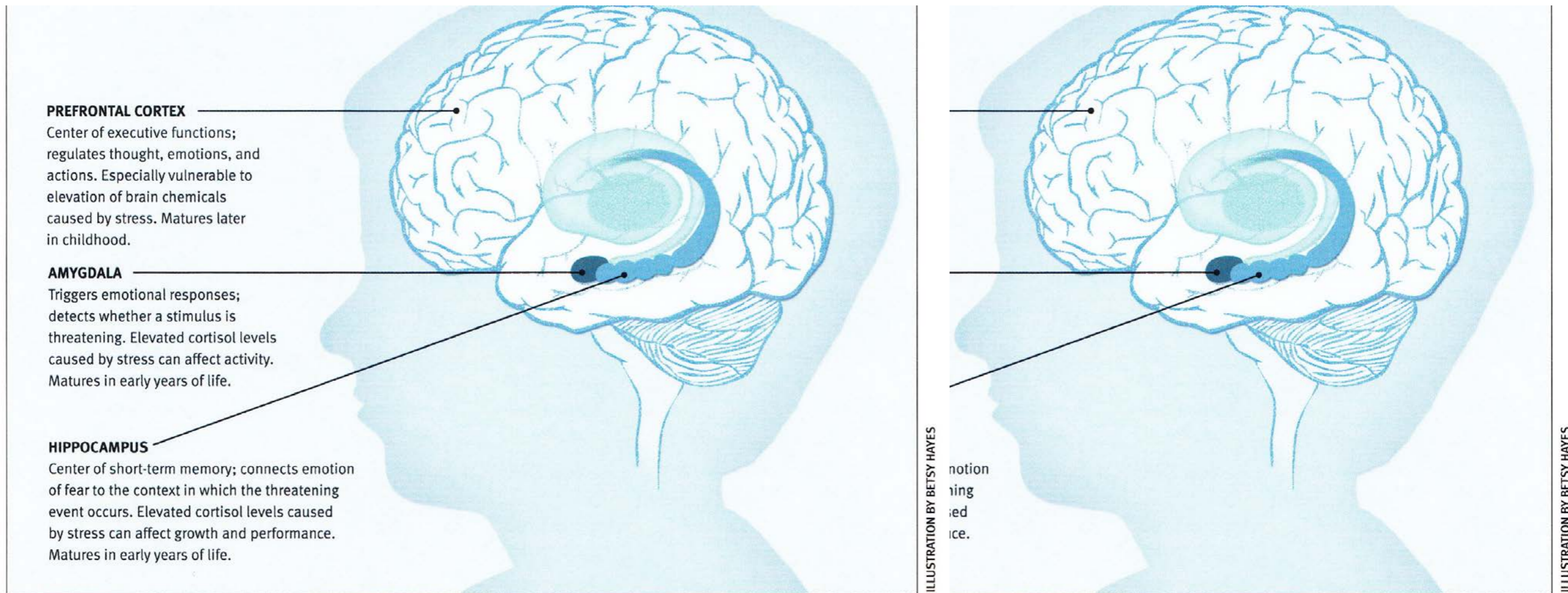
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## 2. Stress

Development is profoundly influenced by *things that happen*: impact of too much stress and trauma, and quality of stress mediation.



# Learning brain/ fear brain\*



\* Fear operates in two ways: behavioral responses with accompanying physiological changes; and conscious feeling states (called terror or anxiety). Most young children experience the first, without being able to recognize the second (more conscious, more organized) way of experiencing.

# Keeping this simple:



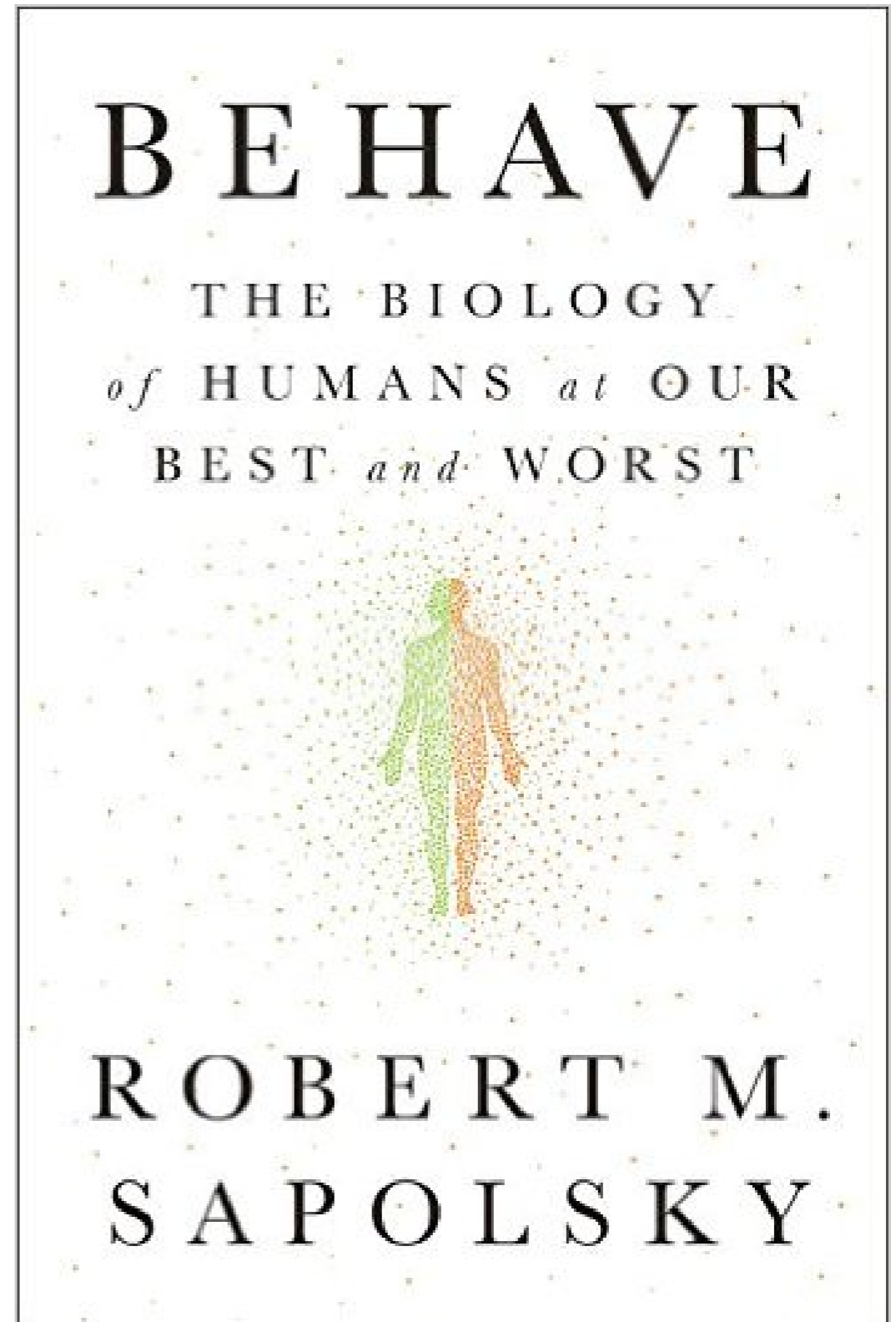
Positive mental health  
Mental distress (illness)  
Mental health informed  
services

# 3. What is behavior?

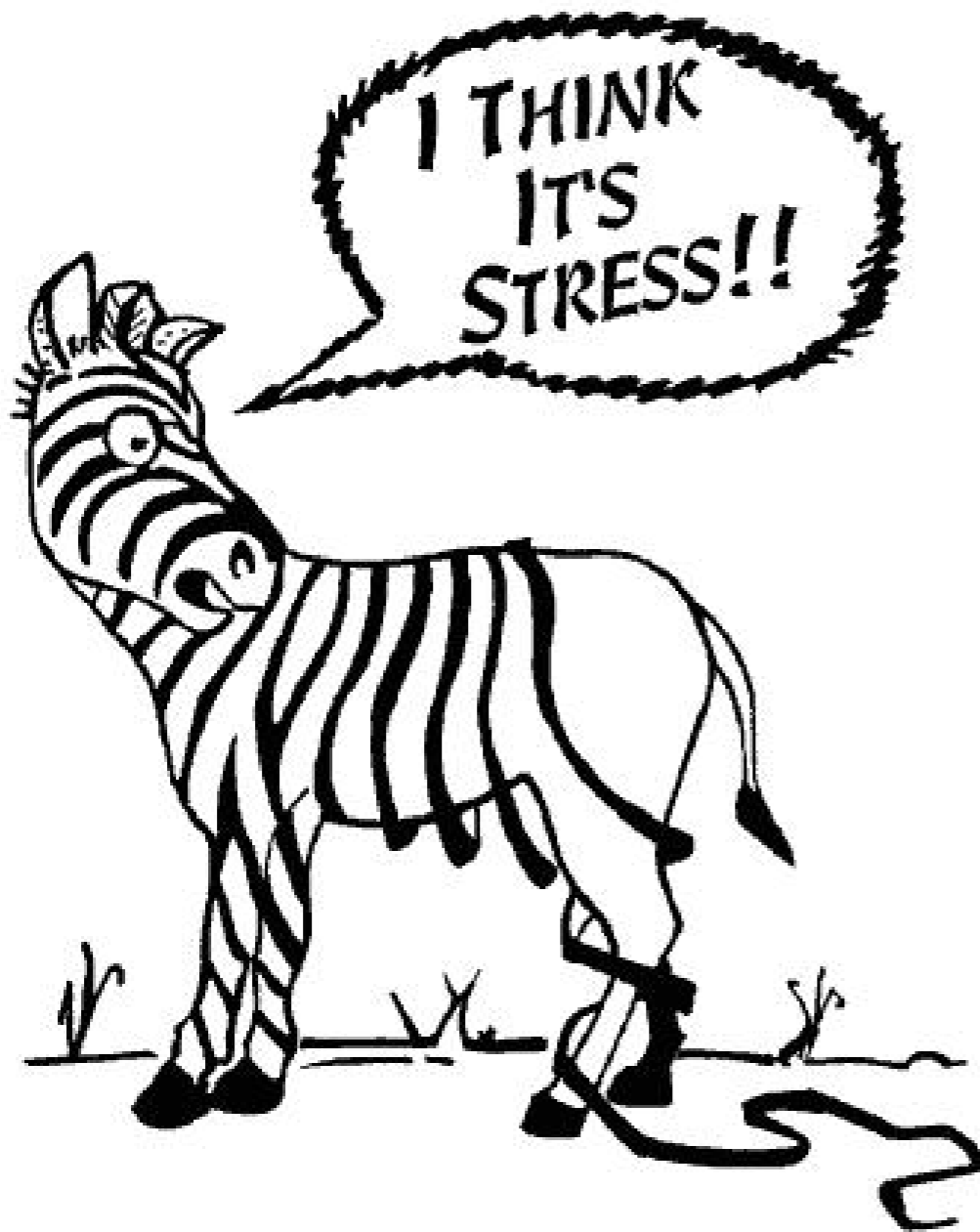
Recent breakthroughs in neurobiological understanding of behavior: not "on purpose" but for a purpose = often to manage internal distress and fear.

Behavior serves to protect myself, and to signal others.

What we hope...that when I behave, someone will be interested and wonder, "Why is she doing that?"



RECOGNIZING AND TOLERATING DIFFERENT WAYS OF REACTING TO  
STRESS



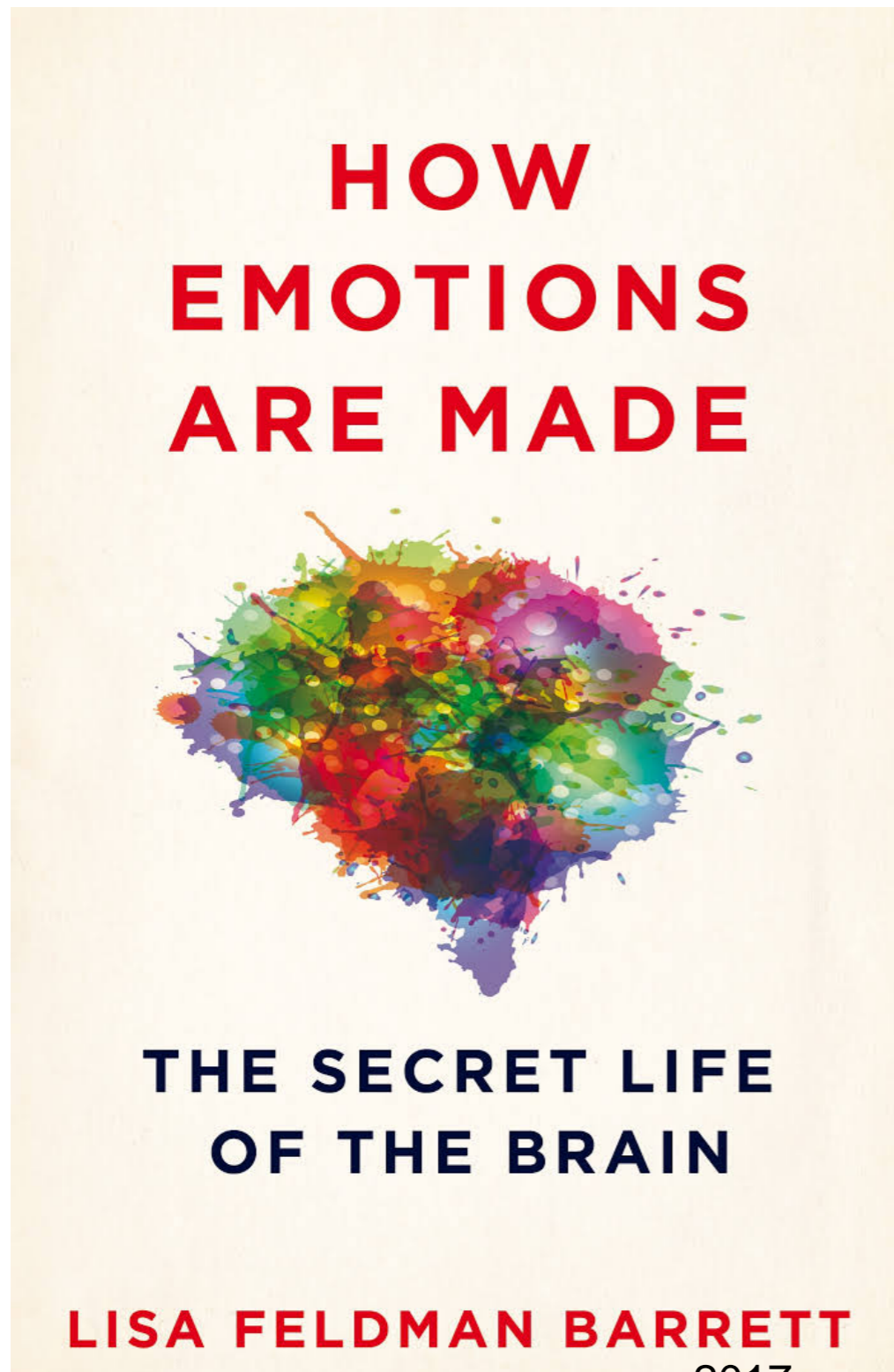
Changing behavior because it works better for you, and for  
us...  
*not because I frighten you.*



The difference between external, relational and internal motives to learn.



# 4. Emotional life



Emotions are not just static or hard-wired entities but alive and continually constructed phenomena that allow us to build a sense of our lives-- and our worlds.

We construct so as to build on what to expect.

This has profound implications for how we spend time with children / with families, and how we contribute to their emotional narratives.

Brain to brain communication: the feeling of becoming in sync and hearing one another



# 5. Community resilience



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Image borrowed from LA County initiative



## DEVELOPMENTAL REPAIR: A Training Manual

*An Intensive Treatment Model for Working with  
Young Children Who Have Experienced Complex Trauma  
and Present with Aggressive and Disruptive Symptoms*

by Anne Gearity, PhD, LICSW

Developmental Repair is an intervention model used at Washburn and many other settings through the state; it is also a state of mind that allows adults to approach challenged and challenging children with **kindness** and developmental support.

We seek to understand why a child is struggling, so that we can better support a developmental solution that works.

And we assume that parents want their children to succeed -- even though some don't know how to offer the best support.

Community resilience argues that when all children are helped to develop, there is collective benefit and collective pride.





So what must we do ?

Hold every child as valuable.

Commit to building kind communities so children can learn.

Understand that adversity can build resilience when adults help.

And trust that we are all learning to do this work in better and better ways.



- “From the beginning of time, in childhood ,I thought that pain meant I was not loved. It meant I loved.”

way to grow™