



IS BEHAVIOURISM DEAD? WHY DOES THIS MATTER (OR NOT MATTER)?

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Behaviourism

Dehumanizing

Humanizing

TABOO!!!



TABOO!!!

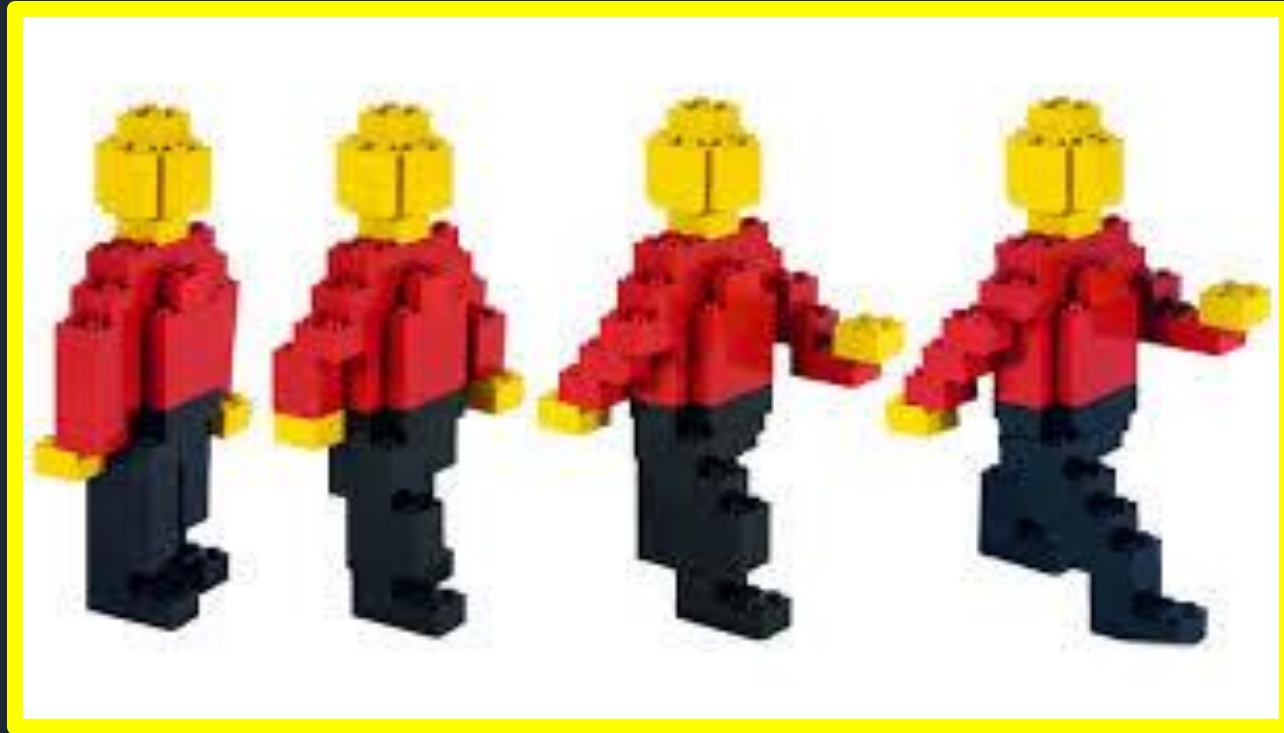


If they can't learn the way we teach,
we teach the way they learn.

— *Ole Ivar Lovaas* —

AZ QUOTES

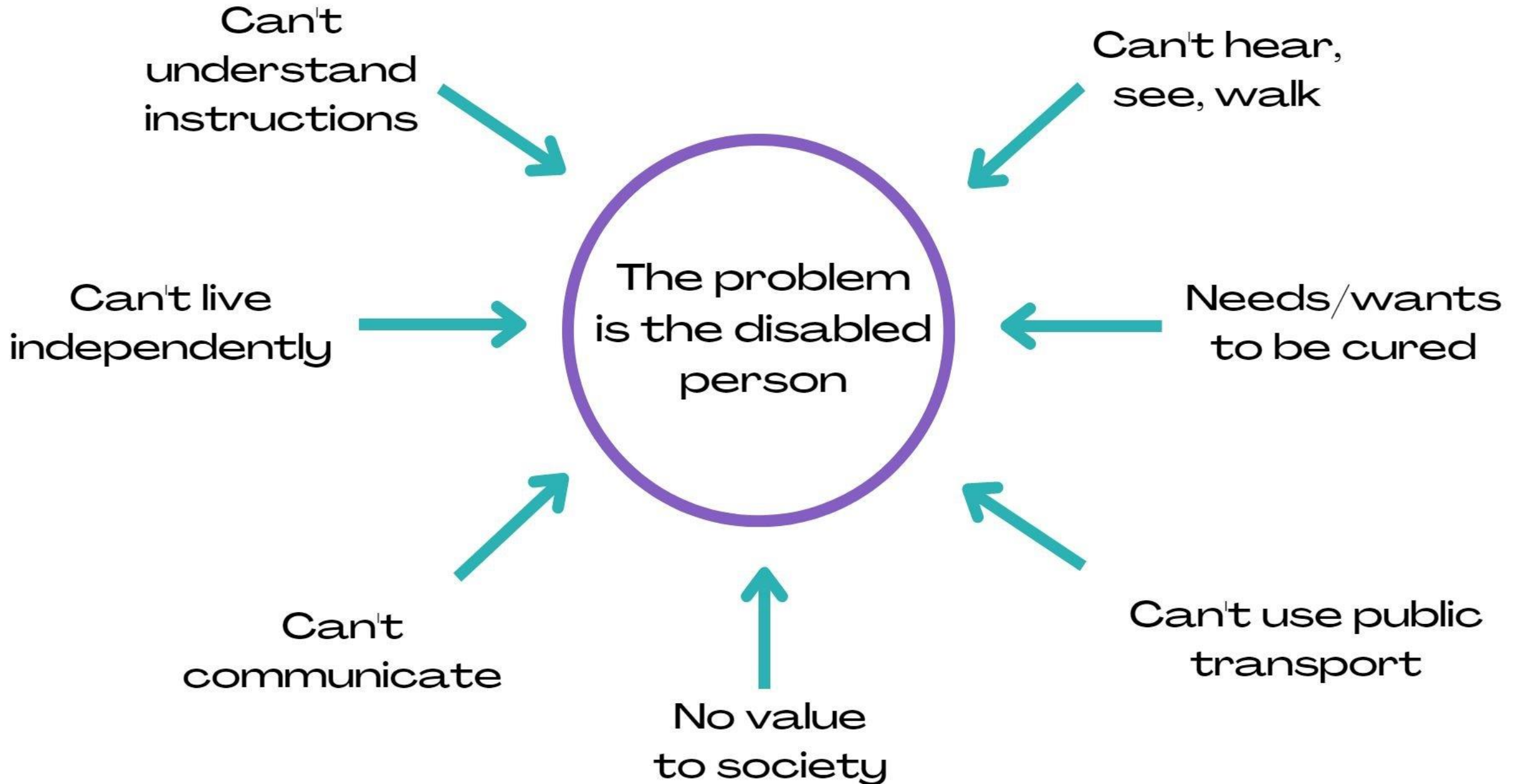
TABOO!!!



“You have a person in the physical sense — they have hair, a nose and a mouth — but they are not people in the psychological sense. One way to look at the job of helping autistic kids is to see it as a matter of constructing a person. You have the raw materials, but you have to build the person.” (Lovaas, 1974, p. 11).

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Medical model of disability



"...behavior analysts also have an obligation to best prepare their clients for the world in which they currently live, which is, unfortunately, less accepting than desired."
(Leaf et al., 2021, p. 8).



Real Story – The Power of Reinforcement:
So I worked with students with Autism Spectrum Disorder for years. One of the things I found was that it was very challenging to get them to do just regular everyday things: putting on a coat or going to their desk. Eventually I realized that there wasn't anything in it for them, so I started using reinforcers and that made a real difference in terms of their willingness to do the things that needed to be part of their daily routine. (p. 9).



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#betterwaysthanaba

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MES

Are YOU in the Present Moments?

Present Moment:
Be Here Now

Acceptance:
Be OK with
Good and bad
things in life.

Values:
What are you
working for?

**Psychological
Flexibility**

Defusion:
Step back
from your
thoughts.

**Committed
Action:**
Don't give up,
even when it's
hard!

Self-as-Context
Be the real you!
You are more
than your
thoughts and
behavior.



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“The ableism you know and face today, was born of the racism Black and brown bodies faced yesterday. Your fight to eradicate ABA in its entirety will fail not only because it is a symptom of a compliant based society, but also because it is a symptom of a racist, compliant based society.... you are focusing your efforts on removing the strongest means by which Black bodies survive in this society, behaviorism, which will leave us more vulnerable than we already are and are doing nothing about the systems that keep us at a disadvantage, harm us, and birthed ABA in the first place.” (Tiffany Hammond, 2022).

Erevelles (2000) discussed the ways in which this history has characterized nonconforming bodies as 'unruly' and 'disruptive'. She explained that:

“In an attempt to control these ‘disruptive excesses’ of unruly bodies, schools have developed elaborate practices that support the rigid organization of classroom space and time, the overriding emphasis on discipline, and the careful monitoring of the curriculum” (p. 33).

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Cheyenne Thornton, a Black autistic activist and blogger, expressed frustration with the popular “race-based excuses:”

“There are ABA professionals who push the need for ABA due to dangers faced by autistics of marginalized races and ethnicities. They argue that it’s necessary for Black, Indigenous, and other minority neurodivergents (NDs) to learn to mask because it will make life better or safer when facing law enforcement or racial tensions.

I can say with 100% certainty that this is complete bullshit—not to mention racist.” (Thornton, 2021).



“... but it was never about *just* ABA. It was about all of it. ABA is a leaf.” (Hammond, 2022)

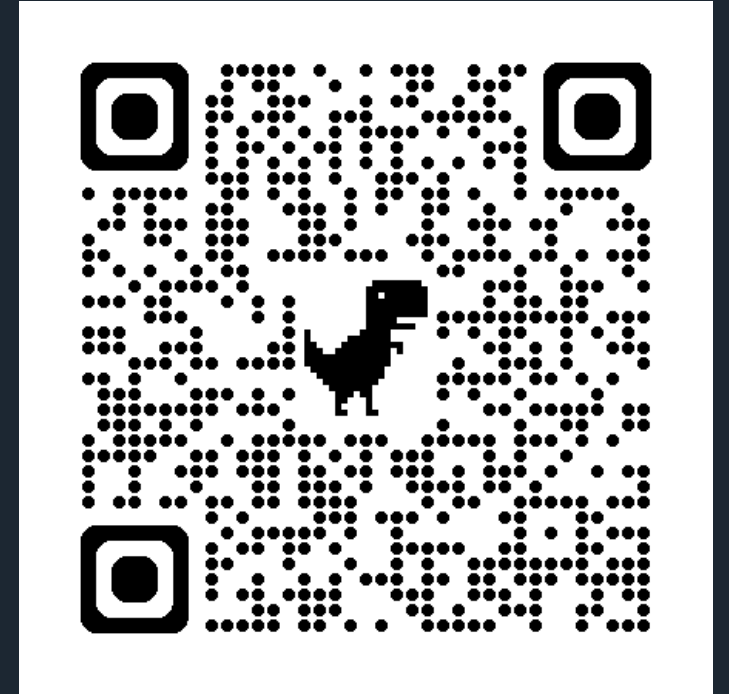
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REFERENCES

Access reference list here:

<https://tinyurl.com/c76awukb>

Or at the QR code



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