

Expanding Your Toolkit for the Treatment of Anxiety in the Pediatric Population

Megan Zappitelli, MD

Prisma Health University of South Carolina

School of Medicine Greenville

Department of Psychiatry



South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



2023 ANNUAL MEETING



Learning Objectives

- At the conclusion of this session, learners will be able to:
 - Identify common anxiety disorders in the pediatric population
 - Better understand psychopharmacological treatment options for the treatment of anxiety disorders in the pediatric population
 - Understand non-pharmacological treatment options for the treatment of anxiety disorder in the pediatric populations
 - Understand the effects of trauma on pediatric patients and the development of anxiety disorders

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





Epidemiology

- Anxiety Disorders are the most common childhood-onset psychiatric disorders
- Prevalence between 10% to 30%
- Rates of anxiety disorders increased to 20.5% following COVID-19 pandemic

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Selective Mutism

What is anxiety?
Generalized Anxiety Disorder

Social Anxiety Disorder

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Specific Phobia

Separation Anxiety Disorder

Agoraphobia

Panic Disorder

Illness Anxiety Disorder

Substance/Medication-Induced Anxiety Disorder

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





What is anxiety?

- According to the DSM-5-TR:
 - *Fear* is the emotional response to real or perceived imminent threat
 - *Anxiety* is the anticipation of future threat

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





What is anxiety?

- Anxiety Can Look Like:
 - Avoidance
 - Somatic symptoms
 - Sleep problem
 - Excessive need for reassurance
 - Poor school performance
 - Eating problems
 - Suicidal thoughts or behavior (22-55% of patients with anxiety will report SI)

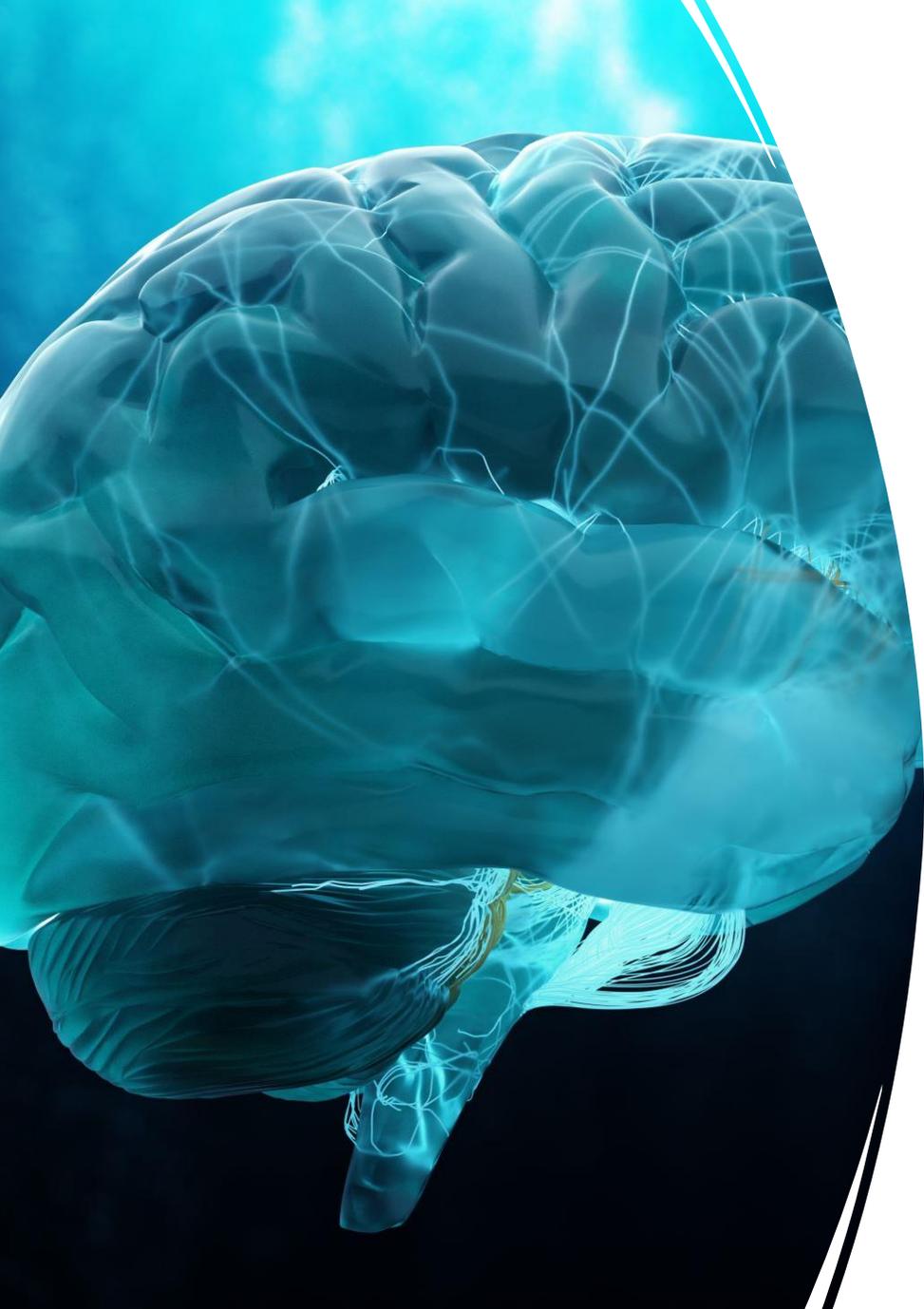
South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





But what about the brain?

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



WHAT IS NMT?

The Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics is a neuroscience-informed, developmentally-sensitive, approach to the clinical problem solving process.

It is not a therapy – and does not specifically imply, endorse or require – any single therapeutic technique or method.



All rights reserved ©2002-2023 Bruce D. Perry

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

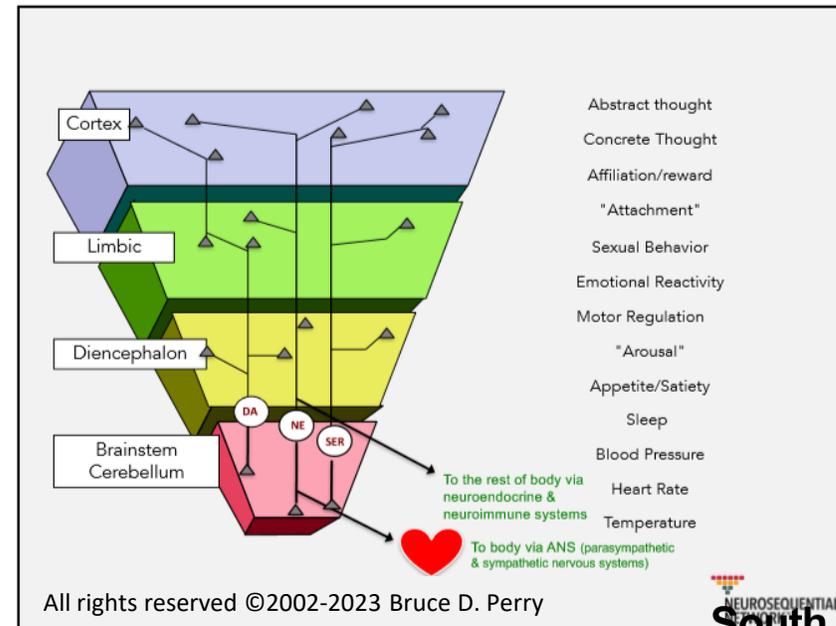
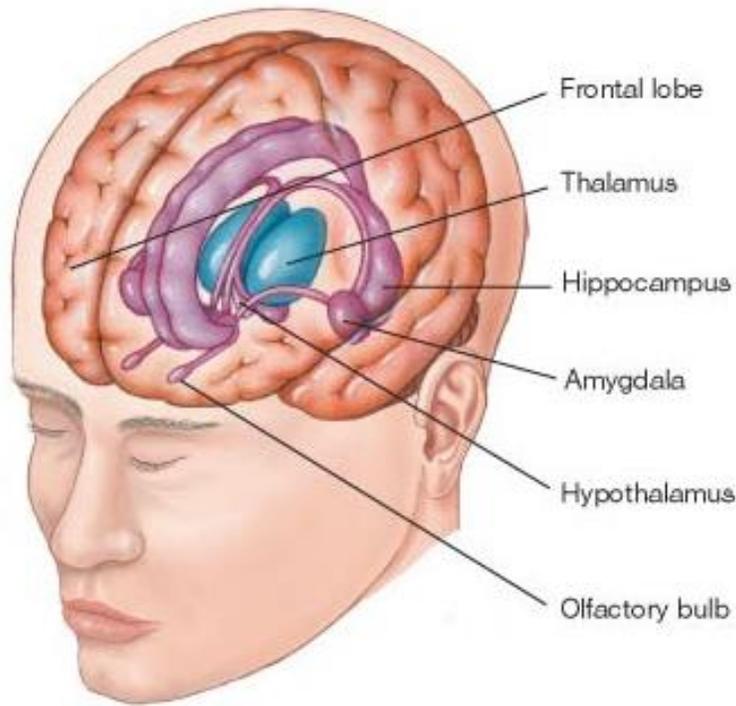
American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Typical Brain Organization and Childhood Development

The Brain's Main Directive is Survival!!



NEUROSEQUENTIAL
South Carolina Chapter

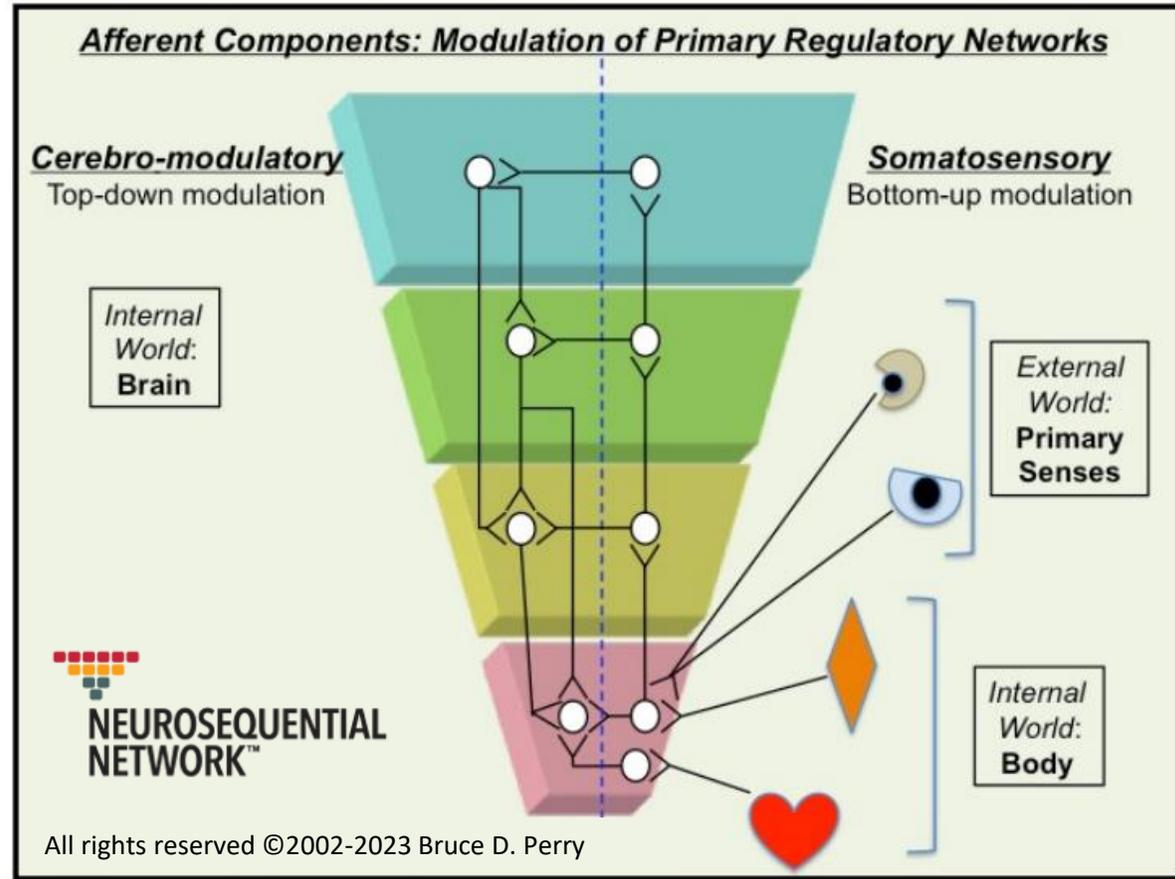
INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



The Brain's
Main Directive
is SURVIVAL!



South Carolina Chapter

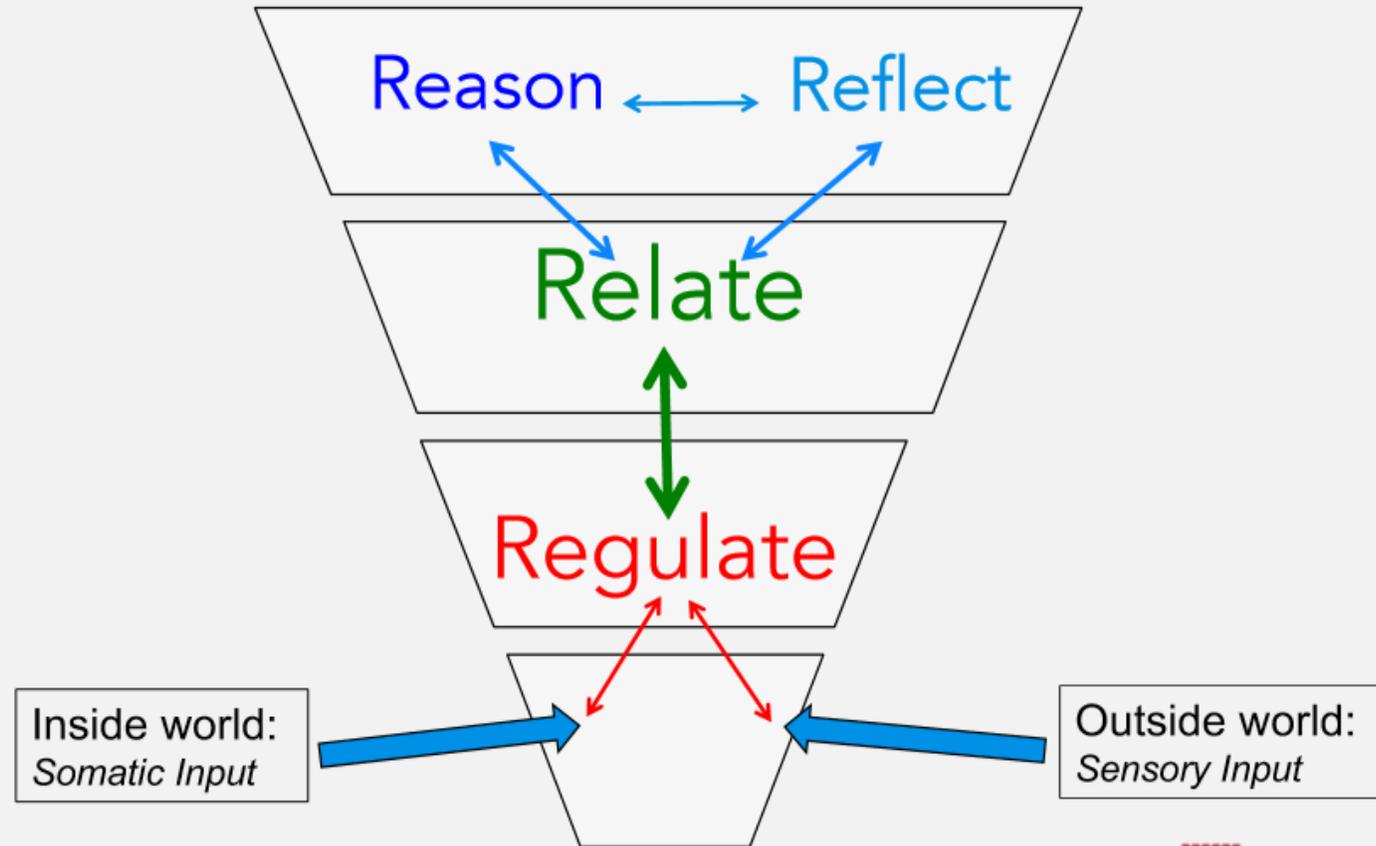
INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Sequential Engagement & Processing



All rights reserved © 2002-2019 Bruce D. Perry

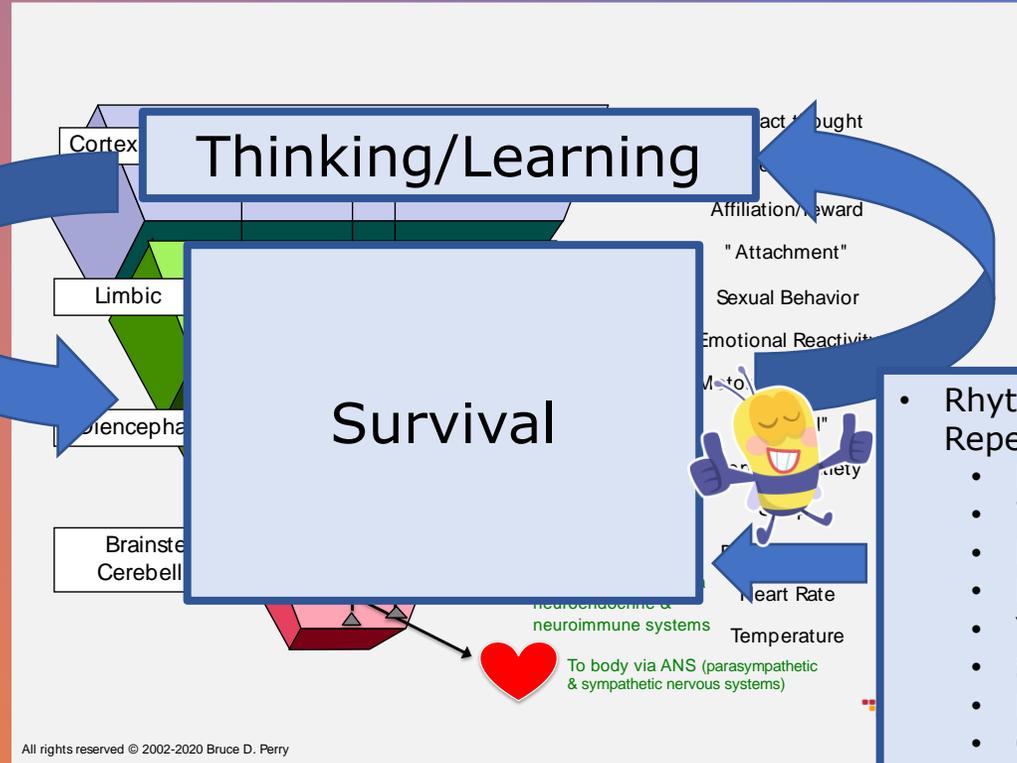


South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





All rights reserved © 2002-2020 Bruce D. Perry

- Rhythmic, Patterned, Repetitive Activities:
 - Running
 - Walking
 - Music
 - Dance
 - Yoga
 - Swinging
 - Rocking
 - Coloring
 - Gardening
- Safe, regulating relational experiences

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Understanding the Threat Response

Flock, Freeze, Flight, Fight Continuum

Traditional Fight/Flight	Reflect	Flock	Freeze	Flight	Fight
Primary secondary Brain Areas	NEOCORTEX <i>Subcortex</i>	SUBCORTEX <i>Limbic</i>	LIMBIC <i>Midbrain</i>	MIDBRAIN <i>Brainstem</i>	BRAINSTEM <i>Autonomic</i>
Cognition	Abstract	Concrete	Emotional	Reactive	Reflexive
Mental State	CALM	ALERT	ALARM	FEAR	TERROR

All rights reserved ©2002-2023 Bruce D. Perry



South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

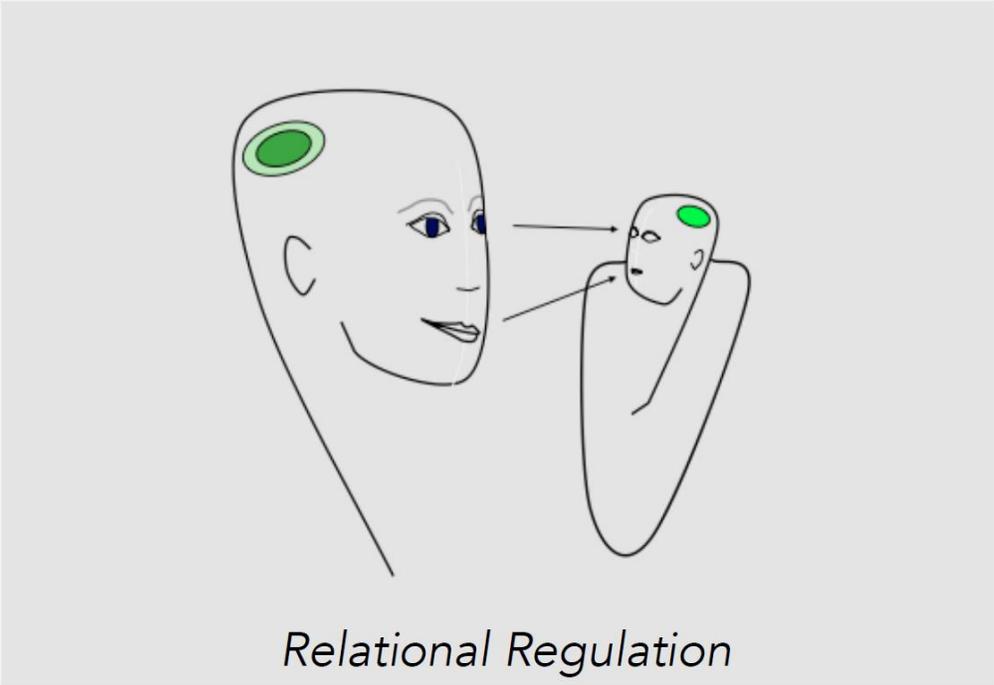
American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Relational Experience Matters— forming relational “templates”

The Magical Moments
Weaving Together the Neurobiology of Relationship, Reward and Regulation



Relational Regulation

All rights reserved ©2002-2023 Bruce D. Perry

 NEUROSEQUENTIAL NETWORK™

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

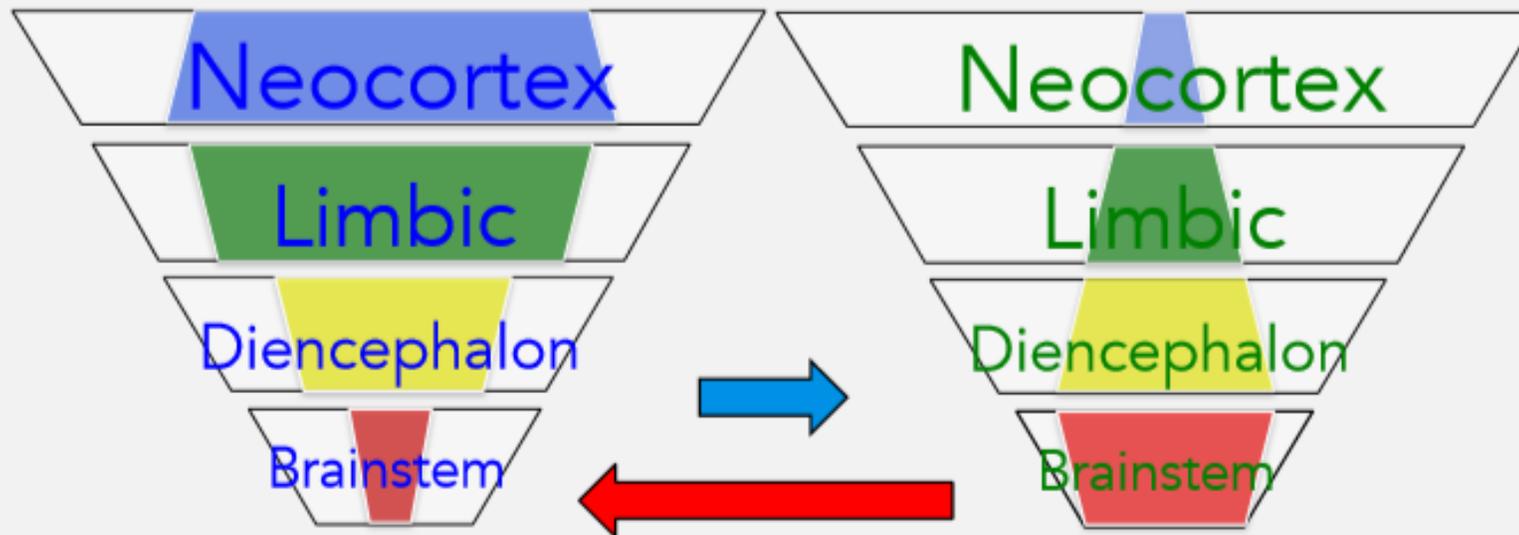
American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Relational Contagion

A dysregulated adult can never regulate a dysregulated child



AND

A dysregulated adult will dysregulate a regulated child

All rights reserved ©2002-2023 Bruce D. Perry



South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





Case: The (*not yet*) strong and (*too*) silent type

- J is a 7yo boy who is brought in by his mother who reports that he has been having increasing difficulty with talking at school and now is saying no words in school. He has been sleeping well and will talk to his parents and siblings at home. He does have some intermittent generalized worries that he expresses to his family, but these worries do not cause impairment at home. He does worry about what people think about him at school.

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





Case: Bothered Belly

- S is a 9yo girl who has been having recurrent episodes of abdominal pain. The belly pain occurs most commonly in the mornings on weekdays and subsides in the evenings and on the weekends. She has missed several days of school and has presented to the pediatrics office 5 times in the past month. She does admit to having difficulty making friends and feeling nervous at school, particularly after returning to school following the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





Case: Can't Stop, Won't Stop

- Z is a 14yo girl who has been having intrusive thoughts that she is contaminated with germs. She has been engaging in repetitive handwashing to the point that her hands have been bleeding. When asked if she is having other intrusive thoughts, she admits that she has intrusive thoughts about dying, which has been terrifying for her and has resulted in decreased sleep.

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

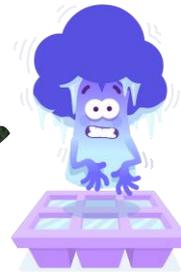
American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Identifying Anxiety

- When is it a disorder?
 - When typical developmental tasks illicit anxiety
 - Impairment in functioning
 - Emotional/behavioral changes
 - Differentiating anxiety versus anxiety disorder



Anxiety

Anxiety Disorder



South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Screen for Child Anxiety Related Disorders (SCARED)
Child Version—Pg. 1 of 2 (To be filled out by the CHILD)

Name: _____
 Date: _____

Directions:
 Below is a list of sentences that describe how people feel. Read each phrase and decide if it is "Not True or Hardly Ever True" or "Somewhat True or Sometimes True" or "Very True or Often True" for you. Then for each sentence, fill in one circle that corresponds to the response that seems to describe you for the last 3 months.

	0 Not True or Hardly Ever True	1 Somewhat True or Sometimes True	2 Very True or Often True
1. When I feel frightened, it is hard to breathe.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. I get headaches when I am at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. I don't like to be with people I don't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. I get scared if I sleep away from home.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. I worry about other people liking me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. When I get frightened, I feel like passing out.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. I am nervous.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. I follow my mother or father wherever they go.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. People tell me that I look nervous.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. I feel nervous with people I don't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. I get stomachaches at school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. When I get frightened, I feel like I am going crazy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. I worry about sleeping alone.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. I worry about being as good as other kids.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. When I get frightened, I feel like things are not real.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. I have nightmares about something bad happening to my parents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. I worry about going to school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18. When I get frightened, my heart beats fast.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. I get shaky.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. I have nightmares about something bad happening to me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Screen for Child Anxiety Related Disorders (SCARED)
Child Version—Pg. 2 of 2 (To be filled out by the CHILD)

	0 Not True or Hardly Ever True	1 Somewhat True or Sometimes True	2 Very True or Often True
21. I worry about things working out for me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22. When I get frightened, I sweat a lot.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23. I am a worrier.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24. I get really frightened for no reason at all.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
25. I am afraid to be alone in the house.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
26. It is hard for me to talk with people I don't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27. When I get frightened, I feel like I am choking.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28. People tell me that I worry too much.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
29. I don't like to be away from my family.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30. I am afraid of having anxiety (or panic) attacks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31. I worry that something bad might happen to my parents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
32. I feel shy with people I don't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33. I worry about what is going to happen in the future.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
34. When I get frightened, I feel like throwing up.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
35. I worry about how well I do things.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
36. I am scared to go to school.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
37. I worry about things that have already happened.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
38. When I get frightened, I feel dizzy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
39. I feel nervous when I am with other children or adults and I have to do something while they watch me (for example: read aloud, speak, play a game, play a sport.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
40. I feel nervous when I am going to parties, dances, or any place where there will be people that I don't know well.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
41. I am shy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SCORING:
 A total score of ≥ 25 may indicate the presence of an Anxiety Disorder. Scores higher than 30 are more specific.
 A score of 7 for items 1, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 19, 22, 24, 27, 30, 34, 38 may indicate Panic Disorder or Significant Somatic Symptoms.
 A score of 9 for items 5, 7, 14, 21, 23, 28, 33, 35, 37 may indicate Generalized Anxiety Disorder.
 A score of 5 for items 4, 8, 13, 16, 25, 29, 31 may indicate Separative Anxiety Disorder.
 A score of 8 for items 3, 10, 26, 32, 39, 40, 41 may indicate Social Anxiety Disorder.
 A score of 3 for items 2, 11, 17, 36 may indicate Significant School Avoidance.
 *For children ages 8 to 11, it is recommended that the clinician explain all questions, or have the child answer the questionnaire sitting with an adult in case they have any questions.

Screening

- Screen for Childhood Anxiety Related Disorders (SCARED)
- GAD-7
- Early Childhood Screening Assessment (ECSA)

GAD-7 Anxiety

Over the last two weeks, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?	Not at all	Several days	More than half the days	Nearly every day
1. Feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge	0	1	2	3
2. Not being able to stop or control worrying	0	1	2	3
3. Worrying too much about different things	0	1	2	3
4. Trouble relaxing	0	1	2	3
5. Being so restless that it is hard to sit still	0	1	2	3
6. Becoming easily annoyed or irritable	0	1	2	3
7. Feeling afraid, as if something awful might happen	0	1	2	3

Column totals: ___ + ___ + ___ + ___ =
 Total score: _____

If you checked any problems, how difficult have they made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home, or get along with other people?
 Not difficult at all Somewhat difficult Very difficult Extremely difficult

Source: Primary Care Evaluation of Mental Disorders Patient Health Questionnaire (PRIME-MD-PHQ). The PHQ was developed by Drs. Robert L. Spitzer, Janet B.W. Williams, Kurt Kroenke, and colleagues. For research information, contact Dr. Spitzer at spitzer@duke.edu. PRIME-MD is a trademark of Pfizer Inc. Copyright 1998 Pfizer Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission.

Scoring GAD-7 Anxiety Severity

This is calculated by assigning scores of 0, 1, 2, and 3 to the response categories, respectively, of "not at all," "several days," "more than half the days," and "nearly every day."
 GAD-7 total score for the seven items ranges from 0 to 21.

- 0-4: minimal anxiety
- 5-9: mild anxiety
- 10-14: moderate anxiety
- 15-21: severe anxiety

Early Childhood Screening Assessment Child's name: _____ Age(yr-mo): _____ Date: _____

Please circle the number that best describes this child compared to other children the same age. Completed by: _____
 • For each item, please circle the + if you are concerned and would like help with the item.

	0- Rarely/Not True	1- Sometimes/Sort of	2- Almost always/Very True	
1. Seems sad, cries a lot	0	1	2	+
2. Is difficult to comfort when hurt or distressed	0	1	2	+
3. Loses temper too much	0	1	2	+
4. Avoids situations that remind of scary events	0	1	2	+
5. Is easily distracted	0	1	2	+
6. Hurts others on purpose (biting, hitting, kicking)	0	1	2	+
7. Doesn't seem to listen to adults talking to him/her	0	1	2	+
8. Battles over food and eating	0	1	2	+
9. Is irritable, easily annoyed	0	1	2	+
10. Argues with adults	0	1	2	+
11. Breaks things during tantrums	0	1	2	+
12. Is easily startled or scared	0	1	2	+
13. Tries to annoy people	0	1	2	+
14. Has trouble interacting with other children	0	1	2	+
15. Fidgets, can't sit quietly	0	1	2	+
16. Is clingy, doesn't want to separate from parent	0	1	2	+
17. Is very scared of certain things (needles, insects)	0	1	2	+
18. Seems nervous or worries a lot	0	1	2	+
19. Blames other people for mistakes	0	1	2	+
20. Sometimes freezes or looks very still when scared	0	1	2	+
21. Avoids foods that have specific feelings or tastes	0	1	2	+
22. Is too interested in sexual play or body parts	0	1	2	+
23. Runs around in settings when should sit still (school, worship)	0	1	2	+
24. Has a hard time paying attention to tasks or activities	0	1	2	+
25. Interrupts frequently	0	1	2	+
26. Is always "on the go"	0	1	2	+
27. Reacts too emotionally to small things	0	1	2	+
28. Is very disobedient	0	1	2	+
29. Has more picky eating than usual	0	1	2	+
30. Has unusual repetitive behaviors (rocking, flapping)	0	1	2	+
31. Might wander off if not supervised	0	1	2	+
32. Has a hard time falling asleep or staying asleep	0	1	2	+
33. Doesn't seem to have much fun	0	1	2	+
34. Is too friendly with strangers	0	1	2	+
35. Has more trouble taking or learning to talk than other children	0	1	2	+
36. Is learning or developing more slowly than other children	0	1	2	+
37. I feel down, depressed, or hopeless	0	1	2	+
38. I feel little interest or pleasure in doing things	0	1	2	+
39. I feel too stressed to enjoy this child	0	1	2	+
40. I get more frustrated than I want to with this child's behavior	0	1	2	+

Are you concerned about this child's emotional or behavioral development? Yes Somewhat No
 Please fax with any comments to ECSS 985 978 8899. Thank! ECSS Clinical Team

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



While you
wait...

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Treatment Stats: According to the CAMS*



Combination treatment: 80.7%



CBT alone: 59.7%



Sertraline alone: 54.9%



Placebo: 23.7%

*Child/Adolescent Anxiety Multimodal Study (CAMS): rationale, design, and methods 2010





Environment

- How can you change the environment to decrease anxiety?
 - Decrease Stimulation
 - Create Schedule
 - Give Opportunities for Control

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





Quick Skills

Breathing:

- Square breathing
- Cookie breathing
- Bubbles: who could make the biggest bubble
- Pinwheels

Thought Stopping:

- Visualizing a stop sign to stop negative thoughts
- Changing the channel

Mindfulness

- Progressive Muscle Relaxation
- Guided Imagery

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





Headspace



Calm



Simple Habit



BetterSleep



What's Up?



Woebot

Multimedia Resources

- Sesame Street Monster Meditations
- Woebot
- Calm
- What's Up?
- Headspace
- Simple Habit
- BetterSleep

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Treatment of pediatric anxiety disorders

Amy Rapp,¹ Alice Dodds,² John T. Walkup,³ and Moira Rynn¹

¹New York State Psychiatric Institute, New York, New York. ²Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

³Weill Cornell Medical College and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, New York, New York

Address for correspondence: Moira Rynn, New York State Psychiatric Institute, 1051 Riverside Drive, Box 74, New York, NY 10032. RynnM@childpsych.columbia.edu

Psychotherapy

- The Coping Cat
- Camp Cope-A-Lot (CCAL)
- BRAVE-ONLINE
 - Body signs, Relax, Activate helpful thoughts, Victory over fears, Enjoy yourself
- Social Effectiveness Therapy (SET-C)
- Exposure and Response Prevention
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS)
- Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS)
- Combined Parent-Child Approach for Children and Families At-Risk for Child Physical Abuse (CPC-CBT)

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Treatment for Anxiety Disorders in the Pediatric Primary Care Setting



Jennifer B. Blossom, PhD^{a,*}, Nathaniel Jungbluth, PhD^b,
Erin Dillon-Naftolin, MD^{b,c,d}, William French, MD^{b,c,d}

KEYWORDS

- Integrated care • Pediatric primary care • Anxiety • Cognitive-behavioral therapy
- Pharmacotherapy

KEY POINTS

- Pediatric anxiety can be effectively managed in integrated pediatric primary care.
- Exposure-based cognitive behavioral therapy is the first-line behavioral intervention for youth anxiety.
- Pharmacotherapy can be effective as a stand-alone treatment or in conjunction with cognitive behavioral therapy.

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



What is a situation where anxiety gets in the way for you? Write it here: _____

What do you fear will happen in that situation? Write your fears here: _____

Are my fears realistic? Is this likely to happen in my life? Follow the arrow that matches your answer.

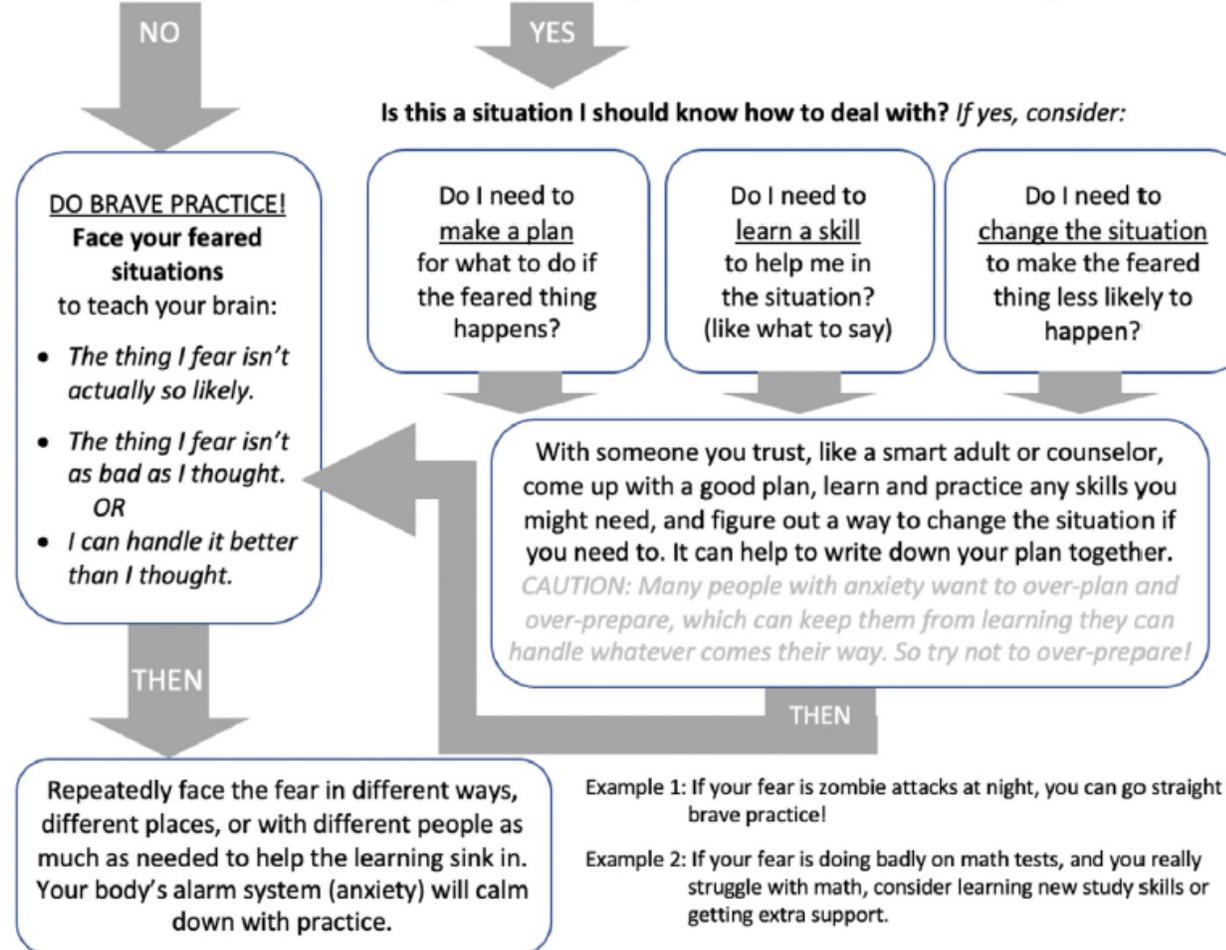


Fig. 1. Decision tree for using exposure to address fear of normal risk, age-appropriate situations.³⁷

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



It's a Family Affair

- Courage, avoiding avoidance
- Staying active
- Family history discussion early (Dr. Walkup says 1st WCC)
- Personalized screening for your child based on family history
 - Screen for anxiety ages 4-6 yo
 - ADHD 3-4 yo
 - MDD screen in adolescent years
- Continued discussion about anxiety and anxiety treatment as the child develops



South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Is it time to consider medications?



South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





Time for medication, now what?

- Family history
 - What worked?
 - What did not work?
- Anticipatory guidance
 - Onset time
 - Follow up
 - Addition of therapy
- Previous medication trials

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)

Name (Brand Name)	Starting dosage		Titration Recommendation	Common Side Effects	FDA approved indications	Off-label Use
Fluoxetine (Prozac)	≤12yo	13+	Increase by 5-10 mg/day every 7-14 days Max: 60mg (80mg)	GI, headache, activation, SI, sexual dysfunction, agitation, insomnia	MDD: 8+ OCD: 7+	MDD: <8 Other anxiety d/o: 6+ Selective mutism
	5mg* <small>*(PI states 10- 20mg)</small>	10mg* <small>*(PI states 10- 20mg)</small>				
Escitalopram (Lexapro)	≤12yo	13+	Increase by 2.5 - 5mg/day every 7-14 days Max: 20mg (30mg)	GI, headache, activation, SI, sexual dysfunction, insomnia	GAD: 7+ MDD: 12+	MDD: 6 – 11
	2.5mg* <small>*(PI states 10mg)</small>	5mg* <small>*(PI states 10mg)</small>				
Sertraline (Zoloft)	≤12yo	13+	Increase by 12.5 - 25mg/day every 7-14 days Max: 200/300mg	GI, headache, activation, SI, sexual dysfunction, agitation, insomnia	OCD: 6+	Other anxiety d/o: 6+ MDD: 6+
	12.5mg- 25mg	25mg- 50mg				
Fluvoxamine (Luvox)	≤12yo	13+	Increase by 12.5 - 25mg/day every 4-7 days Max: 200mg	GI, headache, activation, SI, sexual dysfunction, sedation	OCD: 7+	Other anxiety d/o: 6+ MDD: 7+
	12.5mg daily/BID	25mg daily/BID				
Citalopram (Celexa)	≤12yo	13+	Increase by 5 - 10mg/day every 7 – 14 days Max: 40mg	GI, headache, activation, SI, sexual dysfunction, QTC prolongation	NONE	MDD: 7+ Other anxiety d/o: 7+
	5mg	10mg				
Paroxetine (Paxil)	☹️		☹️	☹️	NONE	☹️

South Carolina Chapter

This table is used for guidance purposes only. The information contained here is compiled from multiple references including the package inserts, child and adolescent pharmacology textbooks (McVoy and Findling), and clinical practice.

Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs) & Norepinephrine-Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitors (NDRIs)

Name (Brand Name)	Starting dosage	Titration Recommendation	Common Side Effects	FDA approved indications	Off-label Use	Mechanism of Action
Venlafaxine ER (Effexor ER)	37.5mg/day	Increase by 37.5mg/day every 4-7 days Max: 75mg (300mg)	GI, headache, activation, SI, sexual dysfunction, HTN, Taper slowly, "electric-shock" sensations	NONE	MDD: >8 GAD: 7+	SNRI
Desvenlafaxine (Pristiq) (Khedezla)	25mg/day *(PI states 50mg/day for adults)	Start 50mg/day >50mg unlikely to help Max 200mg for neuropathic pain	GI, headache, activation, SI, sexual dysfunction, HTN, Taper slowly	NONE	NONE Some safety and tolerability studies in pediatrics	SNRI
Duloxetine (Cymbalta)	20mg/day* *(PI states 30mg/day)	Increase by 20-30mg*/day every 14 days Max: 120mg *(PI states 30mg/day)	GI, headache, activation, SI, sexual dysfunction, Taper slowly	GAD (7+)	MDD: 6+ Pain	SNRI
Bupropion XL (Wellbutrin XL)	150mg* (may use IR for lower dosages) *Also SR has 100mg option	Increase by 150mg/day every 14 days Max: 300mg* *(PI states 450mg)	GI, headache, activation, SI, HTN, contraindicated in seizure and eating disorders	NONE	MDD: 6+ ADHD: 6+ Smoking cessation	NDRI Nicotinic receptor antagonist

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



This table is used for guidance purposes only. The information contained here is compiled from multiple references including the package inserts, child, and adolescent pharmacology textbooks (McVoy and Findling), and clinical practice.

Alpha Agonists and Antagonists

Name (Brand Name)	Starting dosage	Titration Recommendation	Common Side Effects	FDA approved indications	Off-label Use	Mechanism of Action
Clonidine (Catapres)	0.05mg – 0.1mg divided q day or BID* *(PI will recommend TID-QID)	Increase by 0.05mg/day every 7 days Max: 0.4mg/day	Sedation, hypotension, bradycardia, rebound hypertension	ADHD (6+)	Tourette syndrome Anxiety PTSD-related nightmares ODD/CD	Alpha-2 agonist
Guanfacine (Tenex)	0.5mg – 1mg q day or divided BID-TID	Increase by 0.5mg/day every 7 days Max: 3mg/day and 1mg/dose	Sedation, hypotension, bradycardia, rebound hypertension	ADHD (6+)	Tourette's syndrome Anxiety	Alpha-2 agonist
Guanfacine ER (Intuniv)	1mg q day	Increase by 1mg/day every 7 days Max: 4mg/day* *(PI states 7mg/day (91+kg))	Sedation, hypotension, bradycardia, rebound hypertension	ADHD (6+)	Tourette's syndrome Anxiety	Alpha-2 agonist
Prazosin	1mg q day	Increase by 1mg/day every 7 days Max: 4-5mg/day* *(PI states 20mg for HTN)	Hypotension (AM), syncope, sedation	HTN	PTSD-related nightmares	Alpha-1 antagonist

South Carolina Chapter

This table is used for guidance purposes only. The information contained here is compiled from multiple references including the package inserts, child and adolescent pharmacology textbooks (McVoy and Findling), and clinical practice.

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





Other Options

- Hydroxyzine
- Buspirone
- Propranolol
- Hypnotics
- Second-generation antipsychotics* (severe symptoms)
- Benzodiazepines* (procedural anxiety)

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Hypnotic Agents*

Name (Brand Name)	Starting dosage	Titration Recommendation	Common Side Effects	Indications	Mechanism of Action
Melatonin	3mg	Increase by 3-5mg every 2-3 days as needed for sleep Max: 10mg	sedation	Insomnia	Acts on melatonin receptors in the SCN to regulate sleep cycle
Hydroxyzine (Vistaril) (Atarax)	2mg/kg/day divided q 6-8prn <44kg: 25mg >44kg: 50mg	Increase by 12.5-25mg/dose as needed (also, can use 10mg formulation) Max: 200mg/day	Sedation, dry mouth, weight gain?	Insomnia Anxiety Agitation Pruritus	1 st generation antihistamine
Mirtazapine (Remeron)	7.5mg	Increase by 7.5mg. Dosages greater than 15mg are not as effective for sleep Max: 45mg	Sedation, dry mouth, weight gain , increased appetite, abnormal dreams,	Anorexia Insomnia Depression	Presynaptic alpha-2 antagonist 5-HT _{2A/C} , 5-HT ₃ , H ₂ antagonist
Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)	2-5yo	Increase by 6.25-25mg per dose (depending on starting dose) Max: age dependent (50mg/dose)	Sedation, dry mouth, weight gain, increased appetite, urinary retention	Allergies Insomnia Allergies	1 st generation antihistamine
	6-11yo				
	12+				
	6.25mg	12.5-25mg	25mg-50mg		
	1-2mg/kg/dose				

* Can also consider alpha-agonists or second-generation antipsychotics for sleep and nighttime anxiety

This table is used for guidance purposes only. The information contained here is compiled from multiple references including the package inserts, child, and adolescent pharmacology textbooks (McVoy and Findling), and clinical practice.

South Carolina Chapter
INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Antipsychotics

Name (Brand Name)	Starting dosage	Titration Recommendation	Common Side Effects	FDA approved indications	Off-label Use	Mechanism of Action
Risperidone (Risperdal)	0.25mg – 0.5mg divided q day or BID	Increase by 0.25mg – 0.5mg per day every 4 days Max: 6mg	Increased appetite, weight gain, EPS/TD, akathisia, sedation, hyper- prolactinemia, gynecomastia	Irritability +ASD (5+) BPAD—manic/mixed (10+) Schizophrenia (13+)	Aggression Tourette’s syndrome	D2/5-HT2A antagonist 5-HT2A>D2
Aripiprazole (Abilify)	2mg* – 5mg q day *(Can use 1mg in young patients)	Increase by 2.5mg – 5mg/day every 2-7 days Max: 30mg	Increased appetite, weight gain, EPS/TD, akathisia , activation	Irritability +ASD (5+) BPAD—manic/mixed (10+) Schizophrenia (13+)	Aggression Tourette’s syndrome MDD adjunct (on label for adults)	D2/5-HT2A partial agonist 5-HT2A antagonist
Olanzapine (Zyprexa)	2.5mg – 5mg divided <u>qHS</u> or BID	Increase by 2.5mg – 5mg every 2-7 days Max: 20mg (30mg)	Increased appetite, weight gain, metabolic syndrome , less EPS/TD, sedation	Schizophrenia (13+) BPAD—manic/mixed (13+) BPAD—depression (10+)	Aggression Tourette’s syndrome Delirium	D2/5-HT2A antagonist
Quetiapine (Seroquel)	12.5mg – 25mg q day or BID* *(PI states 25mg BID)	Increase by 12.5mg – 25mg up to every day* Max: 800mg *(PI states increase by 50-100mg/day)	Increased appetite, weight gain , less EPS/TD, sedation , metabolic syndrome	Schizophrenia (13+) BPAD—mania (10+)	Aggression Tourette’s syndrome Delirium	D2/5-HT2A antagonist
Haloperidol (Haldol)	3-12yo	12+	Increase by 0.5mg/day every 5-7 days Max: 0.15mg/kg/day or 15-20mg/day	Psychosis (3+) Tourette’s syndrome Hyperactivity Severe behavioral problems	Delirium	D2 antagonist
	0.05- 0.15mg/kg/day divided BID or TID	0.5mg – 5mg divided BID or TID				

This table is used for guidance purposes only. The information contained here is compiled from multiple references including the package inserts, child and adolescent pharmacology textbooks (McVoy and Findling), and clinical practice.

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Side Effects

- Most common side effects:
 - Headache
 - GI distress
 - Sleep disturbance (insomnia or somnolence, vivid dreams)
 - Restlessness
 - Diaphoresis
 - Akathisia
 - Appetite change (increase or decrease)
 - 3-8% of youths may show increased impulsivity, agitation, irritability, silliness, and “behavioral activation”
 - These symptoms need to be differentiated from mania or hypomania
-
- Less common side effects: Use this for the first bullet
 - Serotonin syndrome
 - Increased bleeding
 - Increased suicidality
 - Venlafaxine:
 - Hypertension
 - Tachycardia
 - Bupropion:
 - Seizures (in doses higher than 400mg/day in non-XL preparations)
 - This was increased in patients with bulimia

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Things to Consider



Lower starting doses for patients with anxiety



Be mindful of cytochrome P-450 metabolism and drug-drug interactions



Ask about other serotonergic agents



Nonlinear response to medication



Up to 60% of adolescents respond to placebo



Half life may be shorter in adolescents and children; consider BID dosing for withdrawal symptoms* or side effects

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



”Is this
going to
make my
child
suicidal?”



South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™





Clinical response and risk for reported suicidal ideation and suicide attempts in a pediatric antidepressant treatment: a meta-analysis of randomized control trials Bridge et al 2007 in JAMA



Diagnosis	NNT	NNH	Response Rate	SI Rate
MDD	10	112	61%	3%
OCD	6	200	52%	1%
Non-OCD Anxiety Disorders	3	143	69%	1%

South Carolina Chapter
INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA



SSRIs and Suicide

Figures

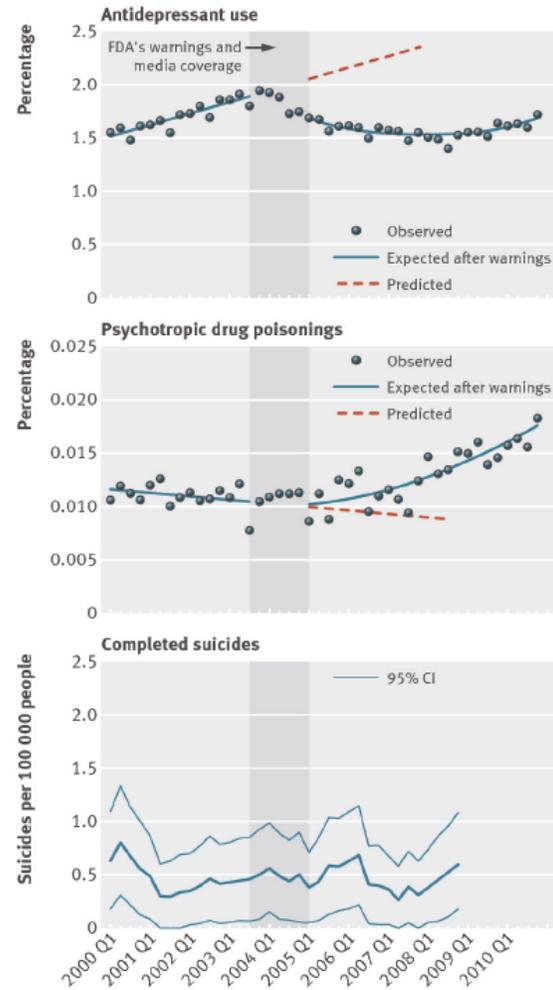


Fig 1 Rates of antidepressant use, psychotropic drug poisonings, and completed suicides per quarter before and after the warnings among adolescents enrolled in 11 health plans in nationwide Mental Health Research Network

South Carolina Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Follow-up Recommendations

- The FDA recommends that patients started on antidepressants
 - Should be seen every week x 4 weeks
 - Then every 2 weeks x 8 week
 - Then monthly after the first 12 weeks of treatment
 - If face-to-face appointments are not possible, it is recommended to have brief telephone evaluations
- No data supports that this monitoring has any impact on suicide rate
- Patients are often engaged in weekly therapy (which helps with monitoring)

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



References

- American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision. Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association, 2022.
- Blossom JB, Jungbluth N, Dillon-Naftolin E, French W. Treatment for Anxiety Disorders in the Pediatric Primary Care Setting. *Child Adolesc Psychiatry Clin N Am*. 2023 Jul;32(3):601-611. doi: 10.1016/j.chc.2023.02.003. Epub 2023 Apr 4. PMID: 37201970.
- Boris Birmaher, MD, Suneeta Khetarpal, MD, Marlane Cully, MEd, David Brent, MD, and Sandra McKenzie, PhD. SCARED Screening Tool. Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, University of Pgh. (10/95). Email: birmaherb@msx.upmc.edu
- Bridge JA, Iyengar S, Salary CB, et al. Clinical Response and Risk for Reported Suicidal Ideation and Suicide Attempts in Pediatric Antidepressant Treatment: A Meta-analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials. *JAMA*. 2007;297(15):1683–1696. doi:10.1001/jama.297.15.1683
- Compton SN, Walkup JT, Albano AM, Piacentini JC, Birmaher B, Sherrill JT, Ginsburg GS, Rynn MA, McCracken JT, Waslick BD, Iyengar S, Kendall PC, March JS. Child/Adolescent Anxiety Multimodal Study (CAMS): rationale, design, and methods. *Child Adolesc Psychiatry Ment Health*. 2010 Jan 5;4:1. doi: 10.1186/1753-2000-4-1. PMID: 20051130; PMCID: PMC2818613.
- Fallucco, E. Podcast Series. PsychED4Peds.com. Featuring Dr. John Walkup.
- Gibbons RD, Brown CH, Hur K, Davis J, Mann JJ. Suicidal thoughts and behavior with antidepressant treatment: reanalysis of the randomized placebo-controlled studies of fluoxetine and venlafaxine. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 2012 Jun;69(6):580-7. doi: 10.1001/archgenpsychiatry.2011.2048. Erratum in: *Arch Gen Psychiatry*.2013 Aug;70(8):881. PMID: 22309973; PMCID: PMC3367101.
- Grunebaum, M. F., & Mann, J. J. (2007). Safe use of SSRIs in young adults: how strong is evidence for new suicide warning?. *Current psychiatry*, 6(11), nihpa81089.
- Perry, BD. The Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics. Neurosequential Network.
- Rapp, A., Dodds, A., Walkup, J.T., & Rynn, M. (2013, November). Treatment of pediatric anxiety disorders. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1304, 52-61. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nyas.12318>
- Spitzer, R., Williams, J., Kroenke, K., et al. Primary Care Evaluation of Mental Disorders Patient Health Questionnaire (PRIME-MD-PHQ). For research information, contact Dr. Spitzer at ris8@columbia.edu.

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Q & A

Megan Zappitelli, MD

Prisma Health University of South Carolina

School of Medicine Greenville

Department of Psychiatry



THANK YOU!

South Carolina Chapter

INCORPORATED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



2023 ANNUAL MEETING