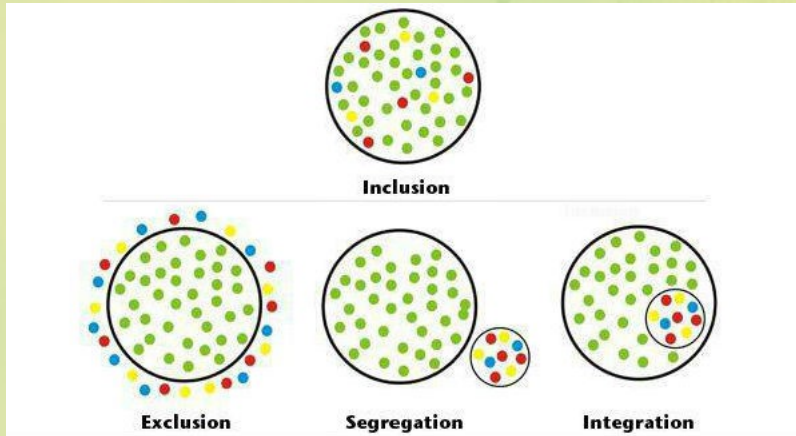


# Preschool Special Education

December 2023

Issue 3 page 1

## What We Worked On in November



## Coming Up...

December 18-January 1: Winter Break, No School

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School

February 2: Teacher Work Day, No School

February 19-20: Mid-winter Break, No School

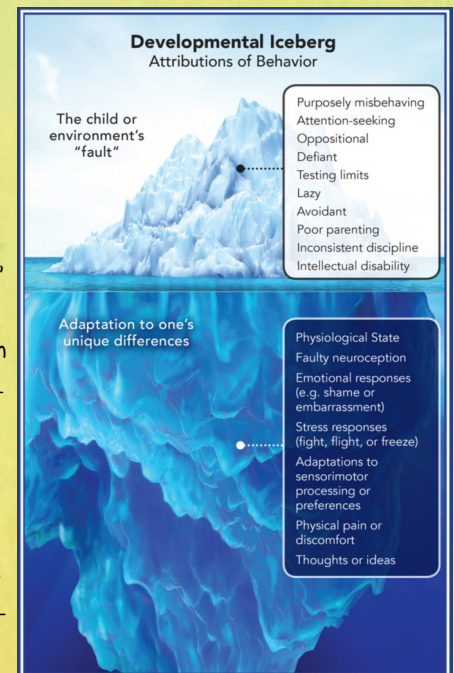
## Executive Function

Another element of executive function is working memory. This is the way your brain holds information from which to draw immediately in order to complete tasks. For example, if you are reading a recipe and read the first four ingredients, leave the recipe card to one side, and then go to the cupboards and refrigerator to get those items out, you are using working memory to remember all the items. Young children are still developing working memory, which is why directions need to be simple, often repeated and sometimes given with a visual cue along with verbal instructions to help them be successful. Neurodivergent children, such as those with ADHD and learning disabilities (like auditory processing delays) have a smaller capacity for information or have a lot of competing information in working memory that has not encoded to short-term or long-term memory. This difficulty may manifest through disorganization, forgetfulness, distractedness, not following directions and not completing tasks.

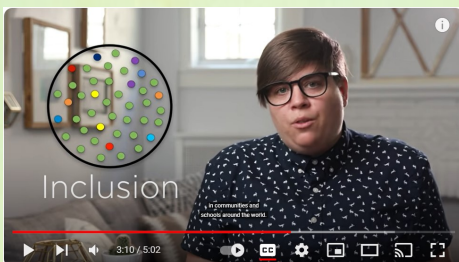
## Social Emotional Development

Psychologist Dr. Mona Delahooke in her book *Beyond Behaviors* gives a useful metaphor when interpreting challenging behaviors we may observe in children.

Western society has been culturally conditioned to judge the child as defiant, disrespectful, or seeking attention, etc. However, there is a much greater depth of possible explanation for those behaviors, many of them rooted in their physiology and internal processes that can't be articulated well. She describes many behaviors being related to stress responses, but there may be other factors, such as executive dysfunction.



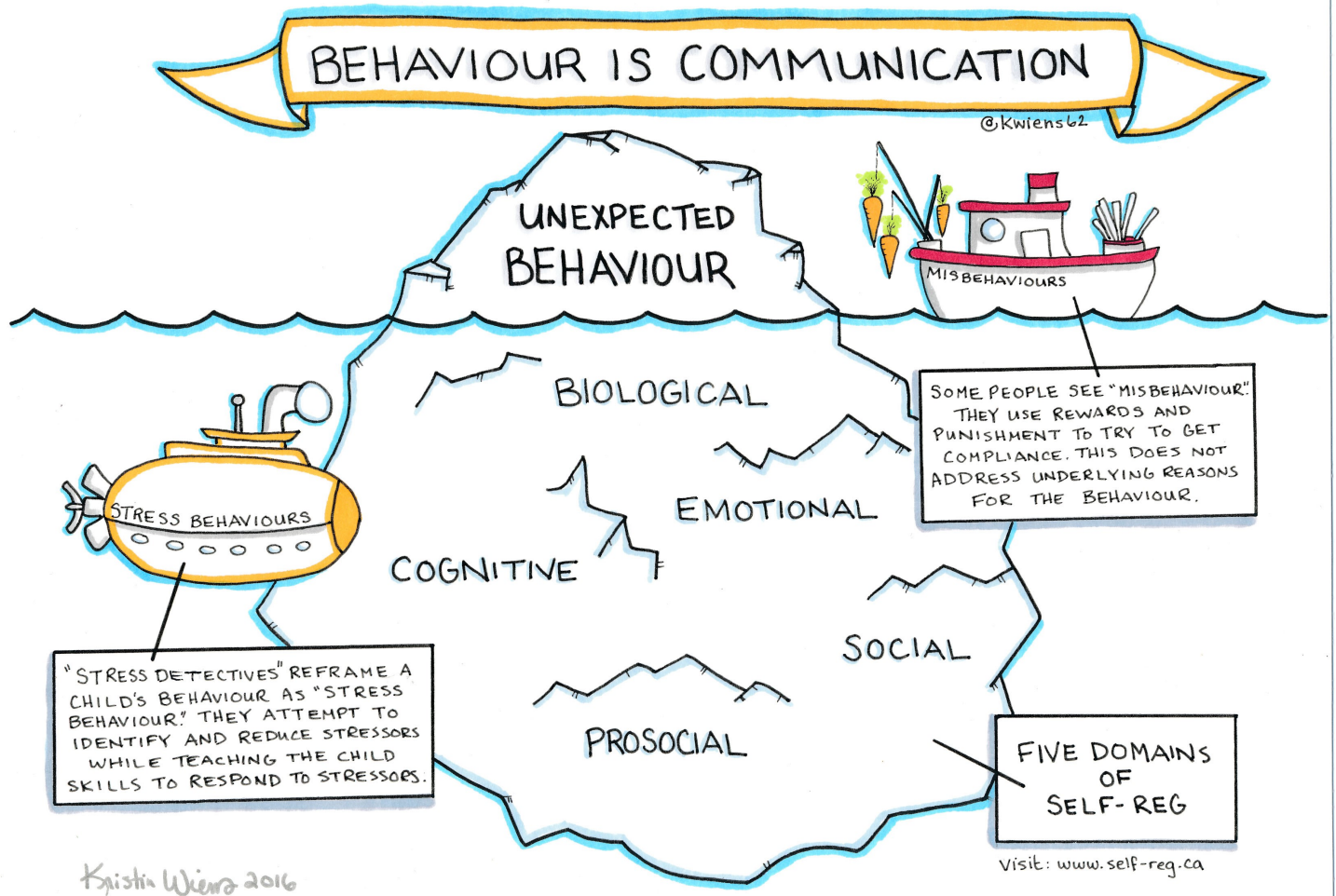
## Special Education: Integration versus Inclusion



Educator and advocate Shelley Moore speaks about the history and evolution of inclusive practices on her channel called Five Moore Minutes. She gives an important distinction between integration and inclusion in her discussion of the history of inclusion in the United States and Canada. She lays out the assumptions based in the concepts of inclusion to challenge us to think how we might improve the experience of children with disabilities in the future. For children with disabilities to be authentically included in all aspects of school, parents are such an essential part of that process. Click on the image to access the link to the video.



## More Helpful charts that compare observable behavior



## Developmental Iceberg

