MORAL PSYCHOLOGY LABORATORY

Providing tools for ethical character development

Guide for the Checklist for an Ethical and Achieving Classroom (CEAC)

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Rationale

The Checklist for an Ethical and Achieving Classroom (CEAC) is based on research findings regarding what helps students develop ethical character and achieve academically. Particular classroom climates and teacher practices are related to student ethical development and achievement.

Purpose

The *Checklist for an Ethical and Achieving Classroom (CEAC)* is a tool for educators. It is a way to consider the broad aspects of designing classroom practice that promotes ethical character development and achievement. Teachers assess their strengths and weaknesses, priorities and goals.

It fits into Step 2 of the Integrative Ethical Education model and is a useful way for teachers to see the characteristics of this step.

Integrative Ethical Education Five Steps for Educators

- 1. CARING RELATIONSHIP. Build a caring relationship with each child.
- 2. SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY. Nurture a community climate that builds a sense of the common good, encourages life-long learning and high achievement, and supports ethical behavior.
- 3a. ETHICAL SKILLS. Cultivate ethical "know-how," a set of processes and skills that include perception, sensitivity, judgment, motivation and action skills with an identity based in wisdom. Integrate character development into all a school does (academics, sports, policies and procedures) and link skill development to the local community.

 3b. LEARN THROUGH APPRENTICESHIP. Use a novice-to-expert apprenticeship model that fosters self-regulation in all community members. Use direct teaching (explicit explanation, modeling and coaching) and indirect teaching (setting up environments that teach the right intuitions).
- 4. SELF-AUTHORSHIP. Plato believed that human existence is essentially a problem to the self, in particular it is an identity problem. For Plato, "it is the problem of deciding what to become and endeavoring to become it" (Urmson, 1988, p. 2). In other words, the final responsibility for character development lies with the individual. In their choices and actions, orientations and time allocations, individuals address the question: Who should I be? In an IEE environment, students are provided with tools for self-regulation in character formation.
- 5. EMBEDDED COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP Develop Global Citizenship, which leads to individual and community flourishing, and a successful, purposeful life.

Development of the Checklist for an Ethical and Achieving Classroom

The Checklist for an Ethical Classroom (CEC) was developed during the Minnesota Community Voices and Character Education Project, 1998-2002¹. It has since been refined and extended into the Checklist for an Ethical and Achieving Classroom (CEAC).

There are two levels of self-assessment, the basic level which is appropriate for most educators and a "going deeper" level for those who would like more suggestions for self-development.

Design of CEAC

The *Checklist for an Ethical and Achieving Classroom* has eight categories. Most categories have both a basic and a deeper level.

Social Climate variables are those that emphasize relationships.

Caring Classroom Community addresses the teacher practices that influence a sense of community in the classroom and that are linked to students' sense of belonging.

Teacher Style includes elements of responsiveness, warmth and immediacy, characteristics particularly important for some minority groups. It also includes elements related to providing a sense of safety, security and trust, all of which are vital for maximum achievement and sense of community.

Community Connections refers to teacher respect for diversity and inclusion of the community in learning.

Ethical Expertise Development includes the additional elements necessary for cultivating ethical skills and expertise (Narvaez, 2006) that have not been included in other categories.

Learning Climate variables are those that contribute to academic motivation and learning, beyond the social climate variables which do also.

Mastery Atmosphere refers to instructional practices that motivate students to learn rather than focus only on comparing their performance to the performance of others.

Stimulating Curriculum Content addresses the types of instruction and curricula that motivate students to engage in learning.

Self-Development and Resilience includes factors that help students in their self-development as teachers assist students in managing their own learning and development.

¹ The *Community Voices and Character Education Project* was supported by grant # R215V980001 from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement to the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.

Supportive Physical Structure suggests that teachers be also aware of how infrastructure influences learning potential.

Summary Table

Basic Going Deeper

Social Climate: Caring Classroom Community-I Caring Classroom Community-II

Teacher Style-II Teacher Style-II

Community Connections-I Community Connections-I

Ethical Expertise Development

Learning Climate: Mastery Atmosphere-II Mastery Atmosphere-II

Stimulating Curriculum Content-I Stimulating Curriculum Content-II Self-Development & Resilience-I Self-Development & Resilience-II

Supportive Physical Structure

How to Use CEAC

The CEAC may be used in staff development settings or by individual teachers as a form of self-authorship.

The educator is encouraged to complete as many pages as comfortable. Once a goal or set of goals is in hand, there is no need to complete the whole measure. Educators can return at a later date to reassess progress on selected goals and move further through the checklist to adopt new goals.

Scoring CEAC

There is no particular scoring used for the CEAC because it is a self-assessment and strategic planning tool. Ideally, a teacher uses it annually and compares responses across years, and sees scores increasing (more "Lots" and increased self-ratings).

Research with the Checklist for an Ethical and Achieving Classroom

We developed an early version of CEAC, the Checklist for an Ethical Classroom during the Minnesota Community Voices and Character Education program, offering it as a resource for teachers' self-assessment. Pam Lane-Garon (2003) and colleagues have found it helpful to use the CEC in teacher education programs.

Terms of Use

The *Checklist for an Ethical and Achieving Classroom (CEAC)* may be used for educational purposes. You must obtain permission for other uses. For-profit companies need a special contract and may be charged royalties.

Contact information

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References

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DIRECTIONS FOR CEAC

- 1. The teacher should ask him or herself each question and complete the self ratings (circle "Lots" "Some" or "None").
- 2. Then mark the overall ratings.
- 3. Finally <u>select a goal</u> to work for the next interim.

SOCIAL CLIMATE BASICS: CARING CLASSROOM COMMUNITY-I

- Lots Some None 1. Do I have clear positive expectations for student behavior?
- Lots Some None 2. Do I highlight shared values by engaging the whole class in thinking about how they want to be treated and how they want their class to be?#
- Lots Some None 3. Do I explicitly emphasize common positive ideals and purposes?
- Lots Some None 4. Do I emphasize compassion and graciousness in how we treat one another?
- Lots Some None 5. Do I encourage students to help one another, the class as a whole, and the teacher by organizing the environment to support student interaction?#
- Lots Some None 6. Do I encourage students to help one another, the class as a whole, and the teacher by being open to students' suggestions?#
- Lots Some None 7. Do I build interdependence and responsibility by asking students to take responsibility for the classroom and then help students learn to take responsibility?#
- Lots Some None 8. Encourage students to create their positive understanding of school tasks.

How would you rate yourself overall on "Caring Classroom Climate-I?"

1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High 7
How woul	d you like to	rate yourself?				
1 Low	2	3	$\it \Delta$	5	6	High 7

SOCIAL CLIMATE GOING DEEPER: CARING CLASSROOM COMMUNITY-II

- Lots Some None 1. Do I help students build a sense of group membership by using class meetings to share personal news and class accomplishments?#
- Lots Some None 2. Do I help students build a sense of group membership by involving students in planning and problem solving?#
- Lots Some None 3. Do I use inclusive group language (e.g., frequently refer to the class as a whole, for example: "This class sure likes to learn!")?#
- Lots Some None 4. Do I help the class build a shared history by creating shared learning experiences?#
- Lots Some None 5. Do I help the class build a shared history involving students in developing class procedures, customs, and rituals?#
- Lots Some None 6. Do I highlight shared goals by generating with students lists of things they hope to learn?#
- Lots Some None 7. Do I highlight shared goals by trying to weave what they hope to learn into the curriculum?#
- Lots Some None 8. Am I straightforward with students, never deceiving them?
- Lots Some None 9. Do we have times of play and delight in one another?

How would you rate yourself overall on "Caring Classroom Community-II?"

1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High 7
						_
How woul	d you like to	rate yourself?				
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High 7

LEARNING CLIMATE BASICS: MASTERY ATMOSPHERE-I

Lots Some None	1.	Are there important	and engagin	g learning oppo	rtunities?						
		Is there an emphasi ompeting to top other		ng tasks and lear	rning (rathe	r than on	getting good	l			
Lots Some None	3.	Do I Answer student	questions ab	out the purpose	s of tasks a	nd assign	ments				
Lots Some None	3.	Do I emphasize stra	I emphasize strategic effort rather than right answers?								
Lots Some None	4.	Do I coach a studen	o I coach a student when he or she is having difficulty with schoolwork?								
		Do I build hopefulngress?#	ness in strugg	ling learners by	helping the	em see ho	w they are				
		Do I stand firm on their lives?#	the importance	ce of learning, b	out make all	owances	for special				
How would yo	ou rai	te yourself overall or	n "Mastery A	.tmosphere-I?"							
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High	7				
How would yo	ou lik	e to rate yourself?									
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High	<u>7</u>				

LEARNING CLIMATE GOING DEEPER: MASTERY ATMOSPHERE-II

Lots Some None 2. Do I adjust learning activities to provide additional scaffolding for students who are

1. Do I adjust learning activities to match student skills?#

- Lots Some None 2. Do I adjust learning activities to provide additional scaffolding for students who are struggling?#
- Lots Some None 3. Do I help students see that learning is interesting, relevant, and important by, for example, connecting learning activities to students' lives and interests and providing opportunities to share their learning with others?#
- Lots Some None 4. Do we discuss ideas and do I encourage deep thinking (e.g., pursuing a line of questioning to the end, logically and/or creatively sorting out the elements in a problem and coming up with a solution)?
- Lots Some None 5. Are there materials in the classroom to foster curiosity and serendipitous learning in many domains and at different levels of difficulty?

How would you rate yourself overall on "Mastery Atmosphere-II?"

<u>1 Low 2 3 4 5 6 High 7</u>

How would you like to rate yourself?

Lots Some None

1 Low 2 3 4 5 6 High 7

LEARNING CLIMATE BASICS: STIMULATING CURRICULUM CONTENT-I

- Lots Some None 1. Do lessons use different teaching styles (e.g., visual, auditory, tactile, kinesthetic, oral, individual/cooperative, olfactory, gustatory, spatial) and assessment styles (oral, written)?
- Lots Some None 2. Do I provide opportunities for students to think logically and provide criteria for judging the adequacy of ideas?
- Lots Some None 3. Do I provide opportunities for students to ask <u>content</u> questions and <u>idea</u> questions?
- Lots Some None 4. Do I allow opportunities for individual self-expression (e.g., let students choose an assignment or way to prove learning took place)?
- Lots Some None 5. When relevant, does the curriculum present diverse viewpoints in an exciting, positive, interesting manner?
- Lots Some None 6. Are value conflicts and ethical dilemmas discussed in lessons?
- Lots Some None 7. Does instruction and assessment involve analytical, creative, and practical thinking (CAP) as well as memorization learning?

Creative tasks: create, design, imagine, suppose

Analytical tasks: analyze, compare and contrast, evaluate, explain

Practical tasks: use, apply, implement

How would you rate yourself overall on "Stimulating Curriculum Content-I?"

1 LOW	<u> </u>	2 3		3	0	Hign /
How woul	ld you like to	rate yourself?				
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High 7

LEARNING CLIMATE GOING DEEPER: STIMULATING CURRICULUM CONTENT-II

Lots Some None 1. Do I provide opportunities for students to invent various solutions to problems?

Lots Some None 2. Do lessons foster different types of thinking and understanding (e.g., creative, prospective, reflection, motivational, practical, procedural understanding, semantic knowledge, narrative framing)?

Lots Some None 3. Do lessons foster different types of intelligences (e.g., musical, bodily-kinesthetic, spatial, logico-mathematical, linguistic, interpersonal, intrapersonal)?

Lots Some None 4. Does instruction and assessment enable students to identify and capitalize on their CAP strengths, and identify, correct, and, as necessary, compensate for weaknesses?

Creative tasks: create, design, imagine, suppose

Analytical tasks: analyze, compare and contrast, evaluate, explain

Practical tasks: use, apply, implement

Lots Some None 5. Does instruction involve utilization, at various times, of at least six performance components, including (a) encoding of information, (b) inference, (c) mapping, (d) application, (e) comparing of alternatives, and (f) response.

Lots Some None 6. Does instruction and assessment integrate rather than separate all of the CAP elements of intelligence?

Lots Some None 7. Does instruction and assessment involve utilization, at various times, of all seven metacomponents of the problem-solving cycle, including

- (a) problem identification,
- (b) problem definition,
- (c) formulation of problem-solving strategies,
- (d) formulation of mental and external representations and organizations of

problems and their associated information,

- (e) allocation of resources,
- (f) monitoring of problem solving, and
- (g) evaluation of problem solving.

How would you rate yourself overall on "Stimulating Curriculum Content-II?"

1 Low 2 3 4 5 6 High 7

How would you like to rate yourself?

1 Low 2 3 4 5 6 High 7

SOCIAL CLIMATE BASICS: TEACHER STYLE-I

Lots Some None 1. Do I communicate with each student personally during the class period?					
Lots Some None 2. Do I adjust my behavior for each student to make each feel welcome and supported?					
Lots Some None 3. Do I try to find out what will help the student succeed in the class?					
Lots Some None a. By asking parents?					
Lots Some None b. By asking the students themselves?					
Lots Some None c. By consulting relevant experts, if appropriate?					
Lots Some None 4. Do I convey support of students as human beings and treat them with dignity?					
Lots Some None 5. Do I expect students to treat each other and themselves with respect?					
Lots Some None 6. Are opportunities provided for building trust among members of the class?					
Lots Some None 7. Do I help students find steady personal support?					
Lots Some None 8. When a student misbehaves, do I make sure that the <u>student understands</u> why an action is <u>harmful</u> and what s/he could have done differently.					
How would you rate yourself overall on "Teacher Style-I?"					
<u>1 Low 2 3 4 5 6 High 7</u>					
How would you like to rate yourself?					
<u>1 Low 2 3 4 5 6 High 7</u>					

SOCIAL CLIMATE GOING DEEPER: TEACHER STYLE-II

Lots Some None	1.	Do students feel lik	te they can rel	ax and be them	selves in th	e classroo	om?		
Lots Some None	2.	Do I provide oppor	tunities for ap	propriate and s	afe express	ions of fee	elings?		
Lots Some None unfair?	3. Is trust of rules and systems encouraged but changes are made when they are								
Lots Some None	4. Is justice/fairness an explicit concern of mine, as a teacher?								
Lots Some None	5. Do I avoid getting angry with the students?								
Lots Some None	6.	Do I help each stud	lent share thei	r strengths with	the class?				
Lots Some None	7.	When a student mis	behaves do I	look for what b	asic need th	ey require	e?		
Lots Some None rather th		When a student mist ounishment?	oehaves, do I i	make it an oppo	ortunity for	character	development		
How would you	rat	e yourself overall o	n "Teacher S	tyle-II?"					
1 Low 2	2	3	4	5	6	High	<u>7</u>		
How would you	like	e to rate yourself?							
1 Low 2	2	3	4	5	6	High	<u>7</u>		

SOCIAL CLIMATE BASICS: SELF-DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE-I

Lots Some None	1.	Do I help each stud	lent meet basi	ic needs (belong	ging, compe	etence, au	tonomy					
purpose	e, un	derstanding, self-act	ualization, tru	ıst)?								
Lots Some None	2.	Am I aware of stud	lents' persona	ıl lives?								
Lots Some None	3.	Do I help student practice and develop social competencies?										
Lots Some None	4.	Do I provide opportunities for developing self-awareness?										
Lots Some None	5.	Do I provide opportunities for developing self-control?										
Lots Some None	6.	Do I provide opportunities for developing self-direction?										
Lots Some None	7.	Do I share plans w	ith students a	nd explain why	things are i	mportant	?					
Lots Some None	8.	Do I encourage stu	dents to ask o	questions?								
How would you	u rai	te yourself overall o	n "Self-Deve	lopment and Re	esiliency?"							
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High	7					
How would you	u lik	e to rate yourself?										
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High	7					

SOCIAL CLIMATE GOING DEEPER:

SELF-DEVELOPMENT AND RESILIENCE-II

Lots Some None 1. Do I provide students with as much autonomy in their learning as they can handle?# 2. Do I balance autonomy with authority, clearly communicate what is negotiable and what is not?# Lots Some None 3. Do I look for and be open to opportunities to engage students in negotiation and problem solving?#. Lots Some None 3. Do I make allowances for students with strong autonomy needs (e.g., give them time to comply on their own; ignore "attitude" until mutual trust is established; problem solve with them to come up with a way to help them comply) ?# Lots Some None 4. Do I allow students freedom to grow? ?# Lots Some None 5. Am I prepared to adjust rules in response to student growth?# Lots Some None 6. Do I encourage student initiatives, allowing students sufficient freedom, for example, to spontaneously help others?# How would you rate yourself overall on "Self-Development and Resiliency?" 4 5 6 High 7 1 Low How would you like to rate yourself? 4 5 1 Low 6 High 7

SOCIAL CLIMATE BASICS:

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND BONDING-I

		Am I aware of the diguration, family val	•	`		y, economic w	ell-being,			
Lots Some None	2.	Do my practices ar	nd style supp	ort diverse stude	nts?					
Lots Some None	3.	. Do I convey appreciation of students' families and cultures?								
Lots Some None	4.	Do I provide opportunities for respectful discussion of different viewpoints?								
Lots Some None	5.	Do I include all stu	idents (and th	eir backgrounds) when usin	g terms "we" a	and "us"?			
Lots Some None skills fo		Do I point out the letting along with each		versity for helpin	ng everyone	learn more an	d build			
Lots Some None the com		Do I encourage stunity?	dents to relat	e to diversity ou	tside the cla	assroom, espec	ially in			
Lots Some None	8.	Do we discuss the e	experiences o	f others to build	empathy &	perspective tal	king?			
How would you	u rai	te yourself overall o	<i>n</i> "Commun	nity Connection	s and Bond	ing-I"?				
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High 7				
How would you	u lik	e to rate yourself?								
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High 7				

SOCIAL CLIMATE GOING DEEPER:

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND BONDING-II

Lots Some None	1. Do I empha	asize how stude	ents are embedo	ded in networks	of relat	ionship	s and support?
Lots Some None	2. Do I prom	ote respect for	family and cult	ural traditions?			
Lots Some None	3. Are there r	espectful, supp	ortive relations	ships among stu	idents, t	eachers,	, and parents?
Lots Some None	4. Do I link le	essons to ances	stors, family, co	ommunity mem	bers and	l traditio	ons?
Lots Some None	5. Do I invite	community m	embers to class	s as mentors and	d model	s for les	sons?
Lots Some None	6. Do I try m	ultiple ways to	strengthen rela	tionships with	parents	and gua	rdians?
How would yo	ou rate yoursel	f overall on "C	Community Co	onnections and	Bondin	ıg-II?"	
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High	7
How would yo	ou like to rate y	ourself?					
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High	<u>7</u>
Based on your	r responses, wh	hat goal will yo	ou set for yours	elf for improve	ment by	what d	leadline?

SOCIAL CLIMATE GOING DEEPER:

ETHICAL EXPERTISE DEVELOPMENT

Lots Some None	1.	Do I immerse stude	ents in examp	oles of ethical go	oals?					
Lots Some None	2.	Do I encourage stu	Oo I encourage students to foster their own virtue development?							
Lots Some None	3.	Do I guide students	in ethical ski	ill development	by allowing	them to p	practice			
multiple	e ski	lls across multiple c	ontexts?							
Lots Some None	4.	Do I encourage stu	I encourage students to aim for and find a higher purpose for their lives?							
Lots Some None on other		Do I emphasize the	e positive (or	negative) impac	et individual	s and grou	ips can have			
Lots Some None	6.	Do I help students	gain skills fo	r self-authorship	?					
Lots Some None for self-		Do I encourage the ning?	students to f	oster compassio	on for others	along wit	th techniques			
	of th	Do I display and end end doubt and avoiding								
Lots Some None fairness		Do we practice reflepect, & social respo		sonal behaviors	in light of p	orosocial v	values such as			
How would you	u rat	e yourself overall o	n "Ethical E	xpertise Develo	pment?"					
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High	<u>7</u>			
How would you	u lik	e to rate yourself?								
1 Low	2	3	4	5	6	High	<u>7</u>			

LEARNING CLIMATE GOING DEEPER: SUPPORTIVE PHYSICAL STRUCTURE

(to the degree made possible by finances and opportunity)

Lots Some None	1.	Is the furniture set	up to be comf	ortable for stud	ents?						
Lots Some None	2.	Can the design and furniture of the room accommodate different teaching styles?									
Lots Some None	3.	Does the room déc	oes the room décor reflect the diversity in the school?								
Lots Some None	4.	Is the room decora	the room decorated in an aesthetically-pleasing manner?								
Lots Some None	5.	Is the room temper	cature comfort	able?							
•	u rat 2	e yourself overall o	n "Supportive 4	e Physical Stru 5	cture?"	High	7				
How would you	u liko	e to rate yourself?									
1 Low 2	2	3	4	5	6	High	7				

TOOLS FOR Researchers, Educators and Parents

Most of these you can download from:

http://www.nd.edu/~dnarvaez/ Or from http://cee.nd.edu

TOOLS FOR TEACHERS: ETHICAL SKILL INSTRUCTION

Free from cee.nd.edu/curriculum

- Narvaez, D. with Endicott, L., Bock, T., & Mitchell, C. (2001). *Nurturing character in the middle school classroom: Ethical Action.* St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.
- Narvaez, D. & Bock, T., with Endicott, L., & Mitchell, C. (2001). *Nurturing character in the middle school classroom: Ethical Judgment*. St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.
- Narvaez, D., & Endicott, L., with Bock, T., & Mitchell, C. (2001). *Nurturing character in the middle school classroom: Ethical Sensitivity*. St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning.
- Narvaez, D. & Lies, J. with Endicott, L., Bock, T., & Mitchell, C. (2001). *Nurturing character in the middle school classroom: Ethical Motivation*. St. Paul: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.

Updated versions for purchase (each \$10 or all four for \$30):

- Nurturing character in the classroom, EthEx Series, Book 4: Ethical Action. (Narvaez) Notre Dame, IN: ACE Press.
- Nurturing character in the classroom, EthEx Series, Book 2: Ethical Judgment. (Narvaez & Bock) Notre Dame, IN: ACE Press.
- Nurturing character in the classroom, EthEx Series, Book 1: Ethical Sensitivity. (Narvaez & Endicott) Notre Dame, IN: ACE Press.
- Nurturing character in the classroom, EthEx Series, Book 3: Ethical Motivation. (Narvaez & Lies) Notre Dame, IN: ACE Press.

Integrative Ethical Education: Guide (Narvaez)

TOOLS FOR RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT

- Citizenship Scale For Elementary and Secondary School Students: Guide. Laboratory for Ethical Development and Education, University of Notre Dame
- Ethical Goodness Scale For Elementary and Secondary School Students: Guide. (Narvaez, Bock & Vaydich)
 Laboratory for Ethical Development and Education, University of Notre Dame
- Community Bonding Scale: Guide. (Narvaez) University of Notre Dame: Center for Ethical Education.
- Attitudes Towards Human Rights Inventory: Guide. (Narvaez, Thoma, Getz) University of Notre Dame: Center for Ethical Education.

Positivity Scale: Guide. (Narvaez) University of Notre Dame: Center for Ethical Education.

Moral Theme Inventory (MTI): Guide. (Narvaez & Bock) South Bend, IN: Notre Dame University.

Assessing Ethical Skills: Guide (Narvaez)

Checklist for an Ethical Classroom: Guide (Narvaez)

Checklist for an Achieving and Ethical Classroom: Guide (Narvaez)

Tuning into Ethical Behavior: Guide (Narvaez)

Multicultural Experiences Questionnaire (MEQ) (Narvaez, Endicott, & Hill)

Rating Ethical Content System (RECS) for children's media (Narvaez)

TOOLS FOR PARENTS

Tuning into Ethical Behavior: Guide (Narvaez)

Nurturing a Peaceable Child (Warren, Vaydich & Narvaez)