# dan siegel parenting from the inside out

Dan Siegel Parenting from the Inside Out: Understanding the Heart of Connection

dan siegel parenting from the inside out is more than just a catchy phrase; it's a transformative approach to understanding the dynamics between parents and children. Drawing from neuroscience, psychology, and mindful parenting, this method emphasizes the importance of self-awareness and emotional insight in raising emotionally healthy and resilient kids. If you've ever wondered how to deepen your connection with your child while fostering empathy and emotional intelligence, exploring Dan Siegel's work offers a profound roadmap.

### What Is Dan Siegel Parenting from the Inside Out?

At its core, Dan Siegel's "Parenting from the Inside Out" is about parents understanding their own emotional histories and mental patterns to create stronger bonds with their children. Rather than focusing solely on behavior management or discipline, Siegel encourages parents to look inward and reflect on how their upbringing shapes their parenting style. This approach is rooted in the belief that self-awareness allows parents to respond more thoughtfully and less reactively in challenging moments.

Siegel, a renowned psychiatrist and educator, combines insights from brain science and attachment theory to explain how parents' internal world influences their children's development. By fostering a mindful, empathetic connection, parents can support their children's emotional and social growth in a nurturing environment.

## The Importance of Self-Reflection in Parenting

One of the foundational principles of "Parenting from the Inside Out" is self-reflection. Siegel argues that understanding your own childhood experiences, emotional triggers, and coping mechanisms is essential to break negative cycles and provide healthier parenting.

#### **How Your Past Shapes Your Parenting**

Many parents find themselves repeating patterns they experienced as children, often unconsciously. For example, if a parent grew up with harsh discipline or emotional neglect, they might struggle with being overly critical or distant with their own children. Siegel emphasizes that by becoming aware of these tendencies, parents can consciously choose new ways of relating to their children.

This awareness helps in two significant ways: it reduces automatic, reactive behaviors and fosters empathy towards both the parent's and child's emotional experiences. When parents recognize their own vulnerabilities, they are better equipped to respond with patience and compassion.

### **Developing Emotional Insight**

Dan Siegel encourages parents to cultivate emotional insight — the ability to identify and understand their feelings as well as their child's emotions. This skill is crucial for effective communication and conflict resolution. Instead of reacting with frustration or anger, parents learn to pause, acknowledge feelings, and engage in meaningful dialogue.

### **Brain Science Behind Parenting from the Inside Out**

Siegel's approach is deeply informed by neuroscience, particularly the concept of "mindsight," which he defines as the capacity to perceive the mind of oneself and others. This awareness helps parents attune to their child's needs and fosters secure attachment.

### **Integration: The Key to Healthy Development**

A central theme in Siegel's work is integration — the process of linking different parts of the brain to work harmoniously. He explains that when parents model integrated thinking, such as balancing emotions with logical reasoning, children learn to manage their own emotional experiences effectively.

For example, during a tantrum, a parent practicing integration might say, "I see you're feeling really upset right now, and that's okay. Let's take some deep breaths together." This approach helps children feel understood and supported rather than punished or dismissed.

#### **Attachment and Connection**

Secure attachment is vital for a child's emotional and social development. Siegel underscores that attachment isn't just about meeting physical needs but also about emotional availability and responsiveness. Parenting from the inside out means being present emotionally, recognizing your child's cues, and responding sensitively.

Parents who cultivate secure attachments through empathy and attunement help their children develop resilience, confidence, and better relationships later in life.

### **Practical Tips from Dan Siegel's Parenting Approach**

While the theory behind Parenting from the Inside Out is rich and complex, Siegel offers actionable strategies that parents can incorporate into everyday life.

### 1. Practice Mindful Listening

Give your child your full attention without interrupting or immediately offering solutions. This validates their feelings and encourages open communication.

### 2. Reflect on Your Triggers

Notice moments when you feel reactive or upset. Ask yourself what underlying feelings or past experiences might be influencing your response.

### 3. Share Your Own Feelings Appropriately

Model emotional honesty by expressing your feelings in a calm and age-appropriate way. For example, "I feel tired today, so I might need some quiet time."

### 4. Use "Name It to Tame It" Technique

Help your child label their emotions to reduce overwhelm. Saying things like, "It seems like you're feeling angry because your toy broke" can help children process feelings.

### 5. Encourage Storytelling and Reflection

Invite your child to talk about their day or experiences. Sharing stories helps develop narrative skills and emotional understanding.

### Why This Approach Resonates with Modern Parents

Parenting today is often accompanied by pressure to be perfect or to follow rigid rules. Dan Siegel's Parenting from the Inside Out offers a refreshing alternative by emphasizing connection over control. It acknowledges that parenting is an emotional journey for both parent and child.

By focusing on self-awareness, empathy, and brain-based strategies, this approach equips parents with tools to navigate challenges thoughtfully and compassionately. Many parents find that this method not only improves their relationship with their children but also promotes their own emotional growth.

### **Building Emotional Intelligence in Children**

Emotional intelligence is critical for success in life, including relationships, work, and mental health. Siegel's parenting philosophy nurtures this skill by encouraging parents to be emotionally attuned and responsive. Children raised in this atmosphere learn to recognize and regulate their emotions, leading to healthier social interactions.

### **Breaking Generational Cycles**

One of the most powerful aspects of parenting from the inside out is its potential to break unhealthy generational patterns. When parents heal and understand their own emotional wounds, they can interrupt cycles of trauma, neglect, or dysfunction, creating a legacy of emotional wellness.

### Integrating Dan Siegel's Insights into Daily Life

Applying the concepts of Parenting from the Inside Out doesn't require drastic changes overnight. Small shifts in perspective and practice can make a big difference.

- Start journaling about your childhood experiences and parenting challenges to increase selfawareness.
- Practice deep breathing or mindfulness exercises during stressful moments to respond calmly.
- Create family rituals that promote connection, such as sharing highs and lows of the day at dinner.
- Read books or attend workshops focused on mindful parenting and emotional intelligence.

By gradually incorporating these habits, parents create an environment of safety and understanding where children can thrive emotionally and socially.

Dan Siegel's Parenting from the Inside Out invites us to look beyond surface behaviors and into the deeper emotional currents that shape family relationships. It reminds us that parenting is not about perfection but about presence, empathy, and continuous learning. In embracing this journey, parents don't just raise children—they cultivate the roots of emotional health that will sustain generations to come.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

# What is the main concept of 'Parenting from the Inside Out' by Dan Siegel?

The main concept of 'Parenting from the Inside Out' is that understanding your own childhood and

emotional experiences helps you become a more mindful and attuned parent, fostering healthier relationships with your children.

# How does Dan Siegel define 'mindful parenting' in the book?

Dan Siegel defines mindful parenting as being present and aware of your own emotions and thoughts while interacting with your child, which allows for more thoughtful and empathetic responses rather than reactive behaviors.

# What role does self-awareness play in 'Parenting from the Inside Out'?

Self-awareness is crucial in the book; it encourages parents to explore their own childhood experiences and emotional patterns to avoid unintentionally passing on negative behaviors to their children.

# How can parents apply the principles from 'Parenting from the Inside Out' in daily life?

Parents can apply the principles by practicing reflective listening, regulating their own emotions, fostering open communication, and creating a secure attachment through empathy and understanding.

# What is the significance of attachment theory in Dan Siegel's parenting approach?

Attachment theory is significant because it emphasizes the importance of secure, responsive relationships between parents and children, which 'Parenting from the Inside Out' uses as a foundation for building emotional health and resilience.

# Does 'Parenting from the Inside Out' offer strategies for managing parental stress?

Yes, the book offers strategies such as mindfulness practices, emotional regulation techniques, and self-reflection to help parents manage stress and respond calmly to their children's needs.

# How does Dan Siegel suggest parents handle difficult emotions in themselves and their children?

Dan Siegel suggests acknowledging and naming emotions, staying present with discomfort, and using empathy to validate feelings, which helps both parents and children process emotions constructively.

## Can 'Parenting from the Inside Out' help improve parent-child

#### communication?

Absolutely, the book provides tools for enhancing communication by encouraging parents to listen attentively, understand their child's perspective, and articulate their own feelings clearly and calmly.

# Is 'Parenting from the Inside Out' suitable for all types of families?

Yes, the principles in 'Parenting from the Inside Out' are designed to be universally applicable, helping parents from diverse backgrounds build stronger, healthier connections with their children.

#### **Additional Resources**

\*\*Dan Siegel Parenting from the Inside Out: An In-Depth Exploration of Mindful Parenting\*\*

dan siegel parenting from the inside out represents a transformative approach to parenting that emphasizes self-awareness and emotional insight as foundational tools for raising well-adjusted children. Rooted in developmental psychology and interpersonal neurobiology, this method transcends traditional parenting advice by focusing on the internal processes of both the parent and the child. As the landscape of parenting philosophies evolves, Dan Siegel's work stands out for its integration of scientific research and practical application, making it a significant topic of interest for professionals, caregivers, and researchers alike.

# Understanding the Framework of Parenting from the Inside Out

At its core, parenting from the inside out encourages parents to explore their own life stories, emotional patterns, and unconscious biases to better understand how these internal factors influence their interactions with their children. Dan Siegel, a clinical professor of psychiatry and a pioneer in the study of interpersonal neurobiology, posits that self-awareness is crucial in cultivating healthy parent-child relationships. This perspective diverges from more behaviorally focused parenting strategies by highlighting the importance of the parent's internal world as a determinant of the child's emotional development.

The methodology encourages parents to reflect on their childhood experiences and how these experiences shape their responses to their children's needs. Through this introspective process, parents can develop what Siegel calls "mindsight"—the ability to recognize mental states in oneself and others. This skill is instrumental in fostering empathy, emotional regulation, and secure attachment, which are essential for nurturing a child's psychological resilience.

### The Scientific Foundations Behind Siegel's Approach

Dan Siegel's parenting philosophy is grounded in the principles of interpersonal neurobiology, a multidisciplinary field that examines how relationships and the brain interact to shape mental

health. This scientific underpinning distinguishes his work from other parenting theories that rely heavily on anecdotal evidence or prescriptive techniques.

Research in neuroplasticity supports Siegel's emphasis on the potential for change within the parent-child dynamic. When parents become more attuned to their own internal states, they not only regulate their emotions more effectively but also create a neural environment conducive to their child's social and emotional learning. Studies have shown that children raised in environments characterized by parental attunement and consistent emotional engagement often develop stronger executive functioning skills and exhibit fewer behavioral problems.

# Key Concepts in Dan Siegel Parenting from the Inside Out

Several key themes emerge from Siegel's work that encapsulate the essence of parenting from the inside out:

### 1. Mindsight and Emotional Regulation

Mindsight, as defined by Siegel, involves the capacity to perceive one's mental processes and those of others with clarity and compassion. By cultivating this skill, parents can better manage their emotional reactions and respond to their children's behaviors with mindfulness rather than impulsivity. This approach fosters emotional regulation not only in parents but also models these skills for children, promoting healthier emotional development.

### 2. Integration of Brain Functions

Siegel emphasizes the importance of integrating different parts of the brain—especially the logical left hemisphere and the emotional right hemisphere—to achieve mental balance. Parenting from the inside out advocates for practices that encourage this integration, such as open communication, reflective dialogue, and recognition of emotional experiences. Such integration helps children develop coherence in their thoughts and feelings, which is vital for psychological well-being.

### 3. Attachment and Secure Relationships

Attachment theory is central to Siegel's framework. He underscores that secure attachment arises when parents are emotionally available, responsive, and attuned to their children's needs. Through the process of "attuned communication," parents can create a safe emotional space where children feel understood and valued, laying the groundwork for trust and emotional security.

## **Practical Applications and Techniques**

Dan Siegel's work is not purely theoretical; it offers concrete strategies for parents seeking to implement the inside-out approach in daily life. These techniques involve both self-reflection and active engagement with the child.

### **Reflective Parenting Practices**

Parents are encouraged to engage in regular self-reflection to identify unresolved emotional issues and behavioral patterns from their own upbringing. This practice helps in recognizing triggers and habitual responses that might interfere with effective parenting. Journaling, meditation, and therapy are some methods recommended to deepen this internal work.

### **Engaging Children Through Attunement**

Siegel advocates for "attuned communication," which involves truly listening to the child's perspective and emotions. This practice requires parents to be fully present, validate feelings without judgment, and guide children through emotional experiences with empathy. Such engagement helps children develop emotional literacy and strengthens the parent-child bond.

### Use of "Name It to Tame It" Technique

One well-known strategy from Siegel's approach is the "Name It to Tame It" technique. When children experience intense emotions, helping them label those feelings verbally can reduce emotional overwhelm and promote cognitive processing. This method supports children in moving from a reactive state to one of understanding and calm.

# Comparing Parenting from the Inside Out with Other Parenting Models

In the broad spectrum of parenting philosophies, Dan Siegel's model is often contrasted with more behaviorist or authoritative approaches, such as those advocated by B.F. Skinner or traditional disciplinary frameworks. While behaviorist models focus primarily on modifying external behaviors through reinforcement, Siegel's approach prioritizes the internal emotional and cognitive processes that underlie behavior.

Similarly, compared to permissive or laissez-faire parenting styles, parenting from the inside out maintains a balanced emphasis on boundaries and emotional attunement. It encourages parents to be both firm and empathetic, avoiding extremes of authoritarian control or excessive leniency.

This balanced stance aligns with what contemporary developmental psychology suggests is optimal

for fostering secure attachments and emotional competence. It also resonates with mindfulness-based parenting models, though Siegel's work uniquely integrates neuroscientific insights with practical parenting strategies.

# **Potential Challenges and Critiques**

Despite its many strengths, parenting from the inside out is not without challenges. One potential limitation is the demand it places on parents to engage in deep self-reflection and emotional work, which may be difficult for those facing high stress, limited resources, or unresolved trauma. The introspective nature of the approach requires time, patience, and sometimes professional support, which may not be accessible to all caregivers.

Additionally, critics might argue that the model's emphasis on internal processes could inadvertently downplay the importance of external factors such as socioeconomic conditions, cultural influences, or systemic barriers that also impact parenting outcomes. While Siegel's framework is comprehensive in its psychological scope, it may need to be integrated with broader social supports to be fully effective.

# The Lasting Impact of Dan Siegel's Parenting Philosophy

Dan Siegel parenting from the inside out has had a significant influence on both clinical practice and popular understanding of parenting dynamics. Its emphasis on mindsight, integration, and attachment provides a robust framework for fostering emotional intelligence and resilience in children. Mental health professionals often incorporate Siegel's principles into therapeutic interventions and parenting programs, underscoring the practical value of his insights.

For parents seeking a more mindful, empathetic, and science-based approach to raising children, this model offers a compelling alternative to conventional advice. By focusing on the internal landscapes of both parent and child, it opens pathways to deeper connection and healthier family relationships.

As modern parenting continues to evolve amidst complex social and psychological demands, Dan Siegel's approach stands out for its hopeful message: understanding ourselves from the inside out is the first step toward nurturing the next generation with compassion and wisdom.

### **Dan Siegel Parenting From The Inside Out**

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dan siegel parenting from the inside out: Parenting from the Inside Out Daniel J. Siegel, MD, Mary Hartzell, 2013-12-26 An updated edition—with a new preface—of the bestselling parenting classic by the author of BRAINSTORM: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain In Parenting from the Inside Out, child psychiatrist Daniel J. Siegel, M.D., and early childhood expert Mary Hartzell, M.Ed., explore the extent to which our childhood experiences shape the way we parent. Drawing on stunning new findings in neurobiology and attachment research, they explain how interpersonal relationships directly impact the development of the brain, and offer parents a step-by-step approach to forming a deeper understanding of their own life stories, which will help them raise compassionate and resilient children. Born out of a series of parents' workshops that combined Siegel's cutting-edge research on how communication impacts brain development with Hartzell's decades of experience as a child-development specialist and parent educator, this book guides parents through creating the necessary foundations for loving and secure relationships with their children.

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letztendlich zu größerer Weisheit, wie man ein erfülltes und sinnvolles Leben führen kann. Die behandelten Themen sind vielfältig und reichen von grundsätzlichen Überlegungen bis hin zu vielen praktischen Beispielen und konkreten Hinweisen für ein harmonisches Leben mit Kindern. Ein wertvoller Ratgeber für alle, die in ihrem Elterndasein neue Wege gehen möchten.

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adoptive parents, foster carers, kinship carers and special guardians is an extremely complex task, and one that happens within a pressurized time frame. Currently, assessments draw substantially on interviews, which can generate a lot of information but little analysis to enable professionals to establish a meaningful understanding of parenting capacity. Children with histories of trauma, loss and hurt need to join families in which parents exhibit the ability to be good at relationships, are able to manage their own stress and bond with the child in their care. Now fully updated and expanded to cover the assessment of kinship carers and special guardians, this book combines the latest findings from neuroscience with research on what makes good assessments and provides guidance and tools for making thorough, analytical and effective assessments. With contributions from leading experts including Dan Hughes, Jonathan Baylin, Kim Golding and Julie Selwyn, it will provide you with the information you need to ensure the best possible chance of placement success.

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dan siegel parenting from the inside out: Journal of Moral Theology, Volume 12, Issue 2 Caesar Montevecchio, Maria Power, 2023-08-04 ORIGINAL ARTICLES The Boundaries and Authority of Catholic Social Teaching: A Reply to John Finnis Bernard G. Prusak Struggling with Self-Love: A Thomistic Perspective on Anxious Attachment and the Vice of Self-Debasement Shervl Overmyer Synodality in the Catholic Church: Toward a Conciliar Ecclesiology of Inclusion for LGBTQ+ Persons Ish Ruiz CATHOLIC PEACEBUILDING IN TIMES OF CRISIS Catholic Peacebuilding in Times of Crisis: Hope for a Wounded World Caesar A. Montevecchio Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation: The Challenge for Future Relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Catholic Church Maka Black Elk Walking Towards Peace: Generating Synergies at a Regional Level Isabel Aguilar Umana and Cecelia Suarez Trueba Peacebuilding in an Interfaith Context in the Great Lakes Region of Africa: The Challenges of Creating New Approaches Emmanuel Ntakarutimana, OP Imagination in Catholic Thought and Peacebuilding Eduardo Gutierrez Gonzalez BOOK REVIEWS Gary Chartier, Understanding Friendship: On the Moral, Political, and Spiritual Meaning of Love Nickolas L. Becker, OSB David C. Cramer and Myles Werntz, A Field Guide to Christian Nonviolence: Key Thinkers, Activists, and Movements for the Gospel of Peace David Kwon David DeCosse, Created Freedom under the Sign of the Cross: A Catholic Public Theology for the United States Matthew A. Shadle Christine Firer Hinze, Radical Sufficiency: Work, Livelihood, and a US Catholic Economic Ethic Mary M. Doyle Roche Kate Jackson-Meyer, Tragic Dilemmas in Christian Ethics Thomas Ryan Bradford E. Hinze, Confronting a Church in Controversy Federico Cinocca Richard Horsley, You Shall Not Bow Down and Serve Them: The Political Economic Projects of Jesus and Paul Najeeb T. Haddad Marc A. Pugliese and John Becker, Process Thought and Roman Catholicism: Challenges and Promises Simeigi He

dan siegel parenting from the inside out: An At-Home Guide to Children's Sensory and Behavioral Problems Linda Garofallou, Louisa Silva, 2023-10-11 An At-Home Guide to Children's Sensory and Behavioral Problems gives a new perspective on sensory and behavior problems, one

that sees those behaviors as stemming from a child's immature sensory nervous system and regulation difficulties. This book offers an effective at-home intervention, the Qigong Sensory Treatment, that enlists a parent's attuned touch to address often overlooked sensory issues that underlie 'problem' behaviors and works to organize those sensory experiences to foster connection and the capacity for self-regulation. It introduces the reader to a new and clinically useful model to understand sensory development, the Early Childhood Self-regulatory Milestones which are critical to the emotional and behavioral health and regulation for all children. With clear step-by-step instructions, diagrams, and links to online instructional videos, it teaches parents how to successfully implement the daily QST hands-on routine. Unique to the treatment model is how it guides and focuses parents to easily recognize, interpret and respond to their child's shifting non-verbal body and behavioral responses and cues. An extensive workbook section navigates parents through a year-long process of learning and implementing QST at home. Weekly letters include those written by the authors, parents who share their own personal experiences with the routine and by QST Master Trainers who offer their years of experience and helpful tips. The 52 letters are timed to anticipate and answer typical questions or stumbling blocks that parents commonly encounter at key points, guiding them to success with their child's sensory and behavior difficulties while making for happier and less-stressful times with their child. This guide will be indispensable to parents and clinicians looking to understand and more effectively work with their child's developmental difficulties.

dan siegel parenting from the inside out: The Emotional Life of the Toddler Alicia F. Lieberman, 2017-12-12 Now updated with new material throughout, Alicia F. Lieberman's The Emotional Life of the Toddler is the seminal, detailed look into the varied and intense emotional life of children aged one to three. Hailed as groundbreaking by The Boston Globe after its initial publication, the new edition includes the latest research on this crucial stage of development. Anyone who has followed an active toddler around for a day knows that a child of this age is a whirlwind of explosive, contradictory, and ever-changing emotions. Alicia F. Lieberman offers an in-depth examination of toddlers' emotional development, and illuminates how to optimize this crucial stage so that toddlers can develop into emotionally healthy children and adults. Drawing on her lifelong research, Dr. Lieberman addresses commonly asked questions and issues. Why, for example, is no often the favorite response of the toddler? How should parents deal with the anger they might feel when their toddler is being aggressively stubborn? Why does a crying toddler run to his mother for a hug only to push himself vigorously away as soon as she begins to embrace him? This updated edition also addresses twenty-first century concerns such as how to handle screen time on devices and parenting in a post-internet world. With the help of numerous examples and vivid cases, Lieberman answers these and other questions, providing, in the process, a rich, insightful profile of the roller coaster emotional world of the toddler.

dan siegel parenting from the inside out: Attachment Parenting Arthur Becker-Weidman, Deborah Shell, 2010-06-02 Attachment Parenting describes a comprehensive approach to parenting children who have a history of neglect, abuse, orphanage care, or other experiences that may interfere with the normal development of attachment between parent and child. Grounded in attachment theory, Attachment Parenting gives parents, therapists, educators, and child-welfare and residential-treatment professionals the tools and skills necessary to help these children. With an approach rooted in dyadic developmental psychotherapy, which is an evidence-based, effective, and empirically validated treatment for complex trauma and disorders of attachment, Arthur Becker-Weidman and Deborah Shell provide practical and immediately usable approaches and methods to help children develop a healthier and more secure attachment. Attachment Parenting covers a wide range of topics, from describing the basic principles of this approach and how to select a therapist to chapters on concrete logistics, such as detailed suggestions for organizing the child's room, dealing with schools' concerns, and problem-solving. Chapters on sensory integration, art therapy for parents, narratives, and Theraplay give parents specific therapeutic activities that can be done at home to improve the quality of the child's attachment with the parent. And chapters

on neuropsychological issues, mindfulness, and parent's use of self will also help parents directly. The book includes two chapters by parents discussing what worked for them, providing inspiration to parents and demonstrating that there is hope. Finally, the book ends with a comprehensive chapter on resources for parents and a summary of various professional standards regarding attachment, treatment, and parenting.

dan siegel parenting from the inside out: The Anger Workbook Russell Kolts, 2024-02-08 Anger is one of the most difficult emotions for human beings to cope with. If our anger is unmanaged, we can end up behaving in destructive ways towards both ourselves and other people, and can face relationship difficulties and negative health consequences. Far from 'letting ourselves off the hook', recent research has shown that by developing compassion towards ourselves and others and compassionately understanding our anger and the factors that fuel it, we can connect with the courage and skills needed to change our behaviour. This fascinating and practical self-help guide will give you a number of powerful techniques for tackling your anger head on and taking control of it, rather than letting it control you. USING THIS WORKBOOK, READERS WILL LEARN ABOUT: - The factors that trigger and fuel our anger, how it works and how to change the anger response - Specific skills to manage anger and improve relationships Filled with interactive exercises and practical skills, The Anger Workbook will guide you in your journey to transform your anger into inner strength. THE COMPASSIONATE MIND APPROACH The self-help books in this series are based on compassion focused therapy (CFT, developed by series editor Paul Gilbert). This brings together an understanding of how our mind can cause us difficulties but also provides us with a powerful solution in the shape of mindfulness and compassion. It teaches ways to stimulate the part of the brain connected with kindness, warmth, compassion and safeness, and to calm the part that makes us feel, anxious, angry, sad or depressed.

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