



Traditional Model  
e.g. ABA



Affirming Model  
e.g. DIR Floortime

BEHAVIOR

Focus on

CONNECTION

HIERARCHY

Relationship  
Structure

EQUALITY

DEFICITS

Client has

NATURAL ABILITIES

SKILLS

Client needs

UNDERSTANDING

TEACHING CLIENT

Goal of  
intervention

LEARNING  
FROM CLIENT

EXTRINSIC  
REWARDS

Motivation

EMPATHY  
INTRINSIC BUY-IN

AUTHORITY /  
TEACHER / BOSS

Guidance  
model

MENTOR /  
NURTURING PARENT

SUPPORTS AND PREPARES FOR THE FOLLOWING SYSTEMS:

TEACHER-LED  
CURRICULUM

Educational  
Model

INDIVIDUAL-LED  
INTERESTS

INDUSTRIAL WAGE

Economic  
Model

SELF-OWNED  
ENTERPRISE

EMPLOYEE

Economic  
Role

BUSINESS OWNER