



Topic Tuesday

THE DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

What our children will be, they already are... It's just a matter of *Space* and *Time*

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Welcome to:

Joyful

BEGINNINGS



Joyful Beginnings is an online community providing support, resources, and a sense of belonging to all those who share their lives with young children, pre-birth to age three.

At Joyful Beginnings parents benefit from the knowledge and expertise of experienced Early Childhood Educators, but more importantly they can learn from and lean on each other.

Joyful Beginnings offers a safe space to learn about and share simple, natural, and joyful ways to care for young children.

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*Introduction
to:*

**THE
DEVELOPMENTAL
APPROACH**

WHAT IS THE DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH?

The developmental approach to understanding our children (and ourselves) is a piece of the Maturation Theory of human growth and development. Using the lens of development as we look at our children, we understand their growth, changes, and behaviors through the following concepts:

1) All children are born with innate potential as human beings.

2) It is our nature to mature- therefore it is a spontaneous unfolding. It does not need to be taught but it is also not inevitable.

3) The primary factor that limits maturation (immaturity) is stuckness in one or more areas.



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THE
DEVELOPMENTAL
APPROACH
VS.
A BEHAVIORAL
APPROACH

TWO DIFFERENT APPROACHES

There are two major approaches to understanding human development. Both have roots in psychology, but they have very different ways of understanding human development. The Behavioral approach looks at every human action as a learned behavior that sometimes needs to be corrected. The Developmental Approach looks at every human action as an unfolding of abilities at a given time. The chart below outlines some of the key differences as they relate to parenting.

	Behavioral	Developmental
Assumption	We are born a Blank Slate	We are born with Inner Springs
Focus	Consequences	Antecedents
Key to Parenting	Skill	Insight
Parenting Plan	Address the Behaviors	Address the Problem or Situation
Context for Parenting	Incident Based	Relationship Based

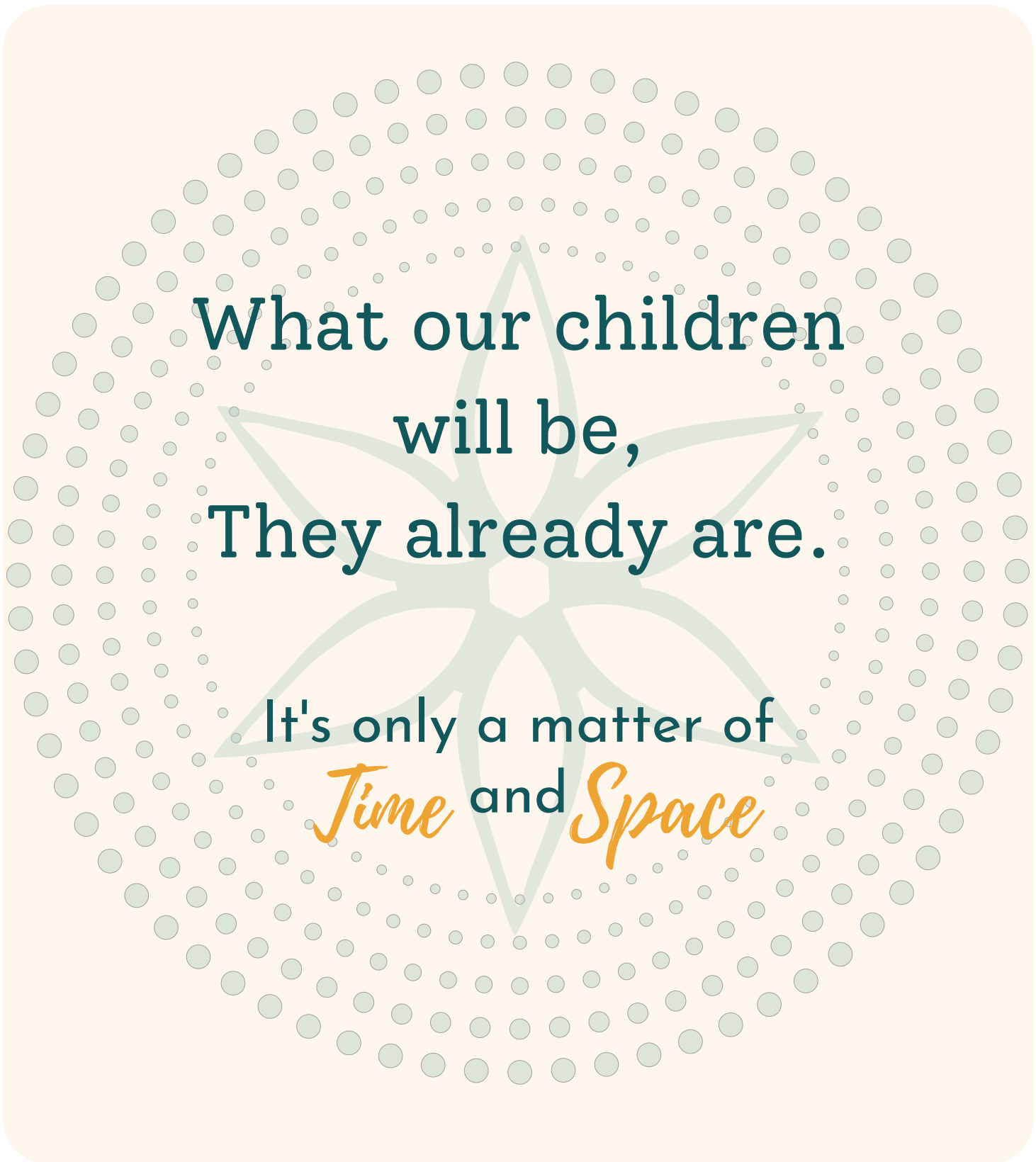
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**TIME
AND
SPACE**



A NEW UNDERSTANDING

With the developmental approach, we grow a new understanding of our children's behaviors and our own expectations. We do not come into this world as fully matured and capable human beings. We come into this world with the capacity to become fully mature and capable. It is our job, as caregivers, to offer the time and space that our children's maturational unfolding requires.



What our children
will be,
They already are.

It's only a matter of
Time and *Space*

RESOURCES



Book:

[Rest, Play, Grow By: Deborah MacNamara](#)

Online Course:

[The Power to Parent](#)

Article:

[Stuckness and Snail Shells](#)

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