School Refusal



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Professional Learning!

Are you a professional attending tonight's webinar?

Would you like a certificate of attendance for your professional body?

Please answer the following questions and email them to us reception@bcbm.com.au and will forward you a certified certificate.

What is school refusal?

What are 3 factors to consider in assessing the 'why' of school refusal?

What are 5 things children and young people are communicating when they say I'm not going to school?



What is school refusal?

The act of putting more energy into avoiding going to school or engaging academically than it does to do it

Often sick or in pain - headaches and gut issues

Peer issues
Bullying from peers or
teachers

Teacher issues
Sometimes academic

A day ending in Y!



Factors to consider when assessing the why:

How can we find the antecedent?

Not on our own!

Anxiety, PDAS, ASD, ADHD, communication delay

Specific learning disability, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia

Hearing and sight impairment

Gap between selves and peers widening



• Child not wanting to go to school

Normal age appropriate developmental stage

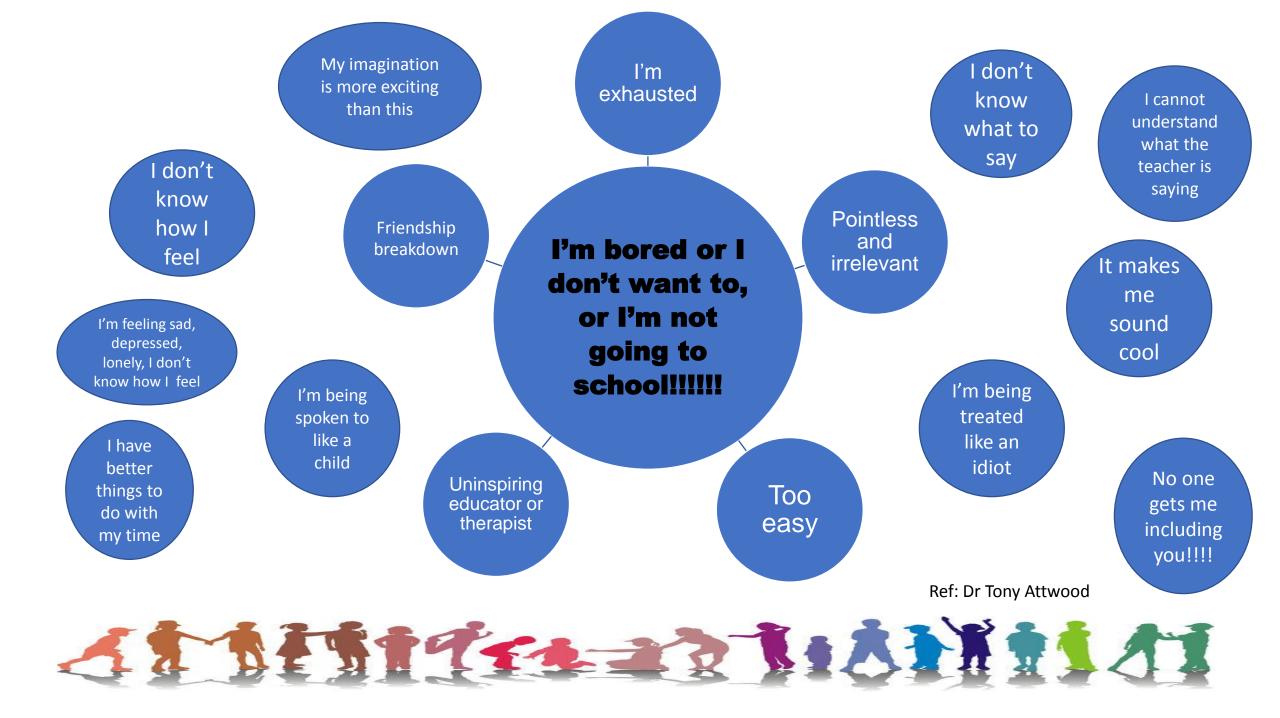
Extremes

- Child wants to go to school but they can't for whatever reason
- Seen in ODD, ADHD, anxiety disorders, ASD, Down Syndrome, Chromosome Disorders

 One of the challenges with task and demand avoidance is it can be very extreme and NOT actually fit neatly in any of these boxes – school refusal

> Pathological Demand Avoidance





Biggest obsession is avoiding demands including school refusal

Avoid doing what they are asked to do, blaming others

Are 'obsessional'

Fascination over certain toys, videos or games

Talk persistently about one topic of conversation and ask the same question over and over





Supports

Work with your school if you can Insist Student engagement officers get involved

Find a good therapist- for them and you!!!!

Access Carer
Gateway for you
and your other
kids

Join Facebook Communities

Remember that they can still be successful if they don't get to do school in the usual way



Praise the Implied Demand

Day One

Adult request

Child manages anxiety and complies

Parent thrilled

Praises child

Child freezes or explodes

Settle child

Day Two

Adult request

Child's anxiety erupts

Child refuses to perform task

Adult re-requests and reminds of amazing success day one

Child melts down

Child shuts down and refuses to comply

Parent bribes, pushes, encourages, bullies, yells, screams, cries Child may become angry or violent if in home or safe place

If in public, smiles sweetly

Child refuses to do activity again



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Question Time

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