

# Empowering Parents, Educators, and Mentors in the Social Media Age

**Dr. Gila Zilka**



**Bar-Ilan University  
Achva Academic College  
Israel**

# The Social & New Media

## Offer our children

- \* Vast amount of information
- \* Many behavioral models
- \* New type of social communication
- \* A Complex reality



**New Horizons**



**New Risks**

# The Social & New Media

## Opportunities

- \* Personal and social development

## Risks

- \* Blurring the boundaries between private and public, intimate and sharing, and adjustment to the norms and autonomous choice

# Children feel that Social Networks

- \* **Expand their ability to form communication with others**
- \* **Empower a sense of social connection**
- \* **The networks provide a feeling of belonging, the experience of close friendships and of being socially accepted**
- \* **Such interactions create a sense of self-worth, and being needed, being a major contributor to their environment**

# The Social Network and Internet

- \* Social Networks and internet, are part of an environment that gives the children a feeling of a vast space, a space without boundaries that offers infinite possibilities.
- \* It is easier to hurt people online than it is to do so face to face.
- \* Being invisible – “I’m online but no one can see me” could lead users into risk situations.
- \* **The risks can be significant**

# Leveraging the existing reality for personal growth

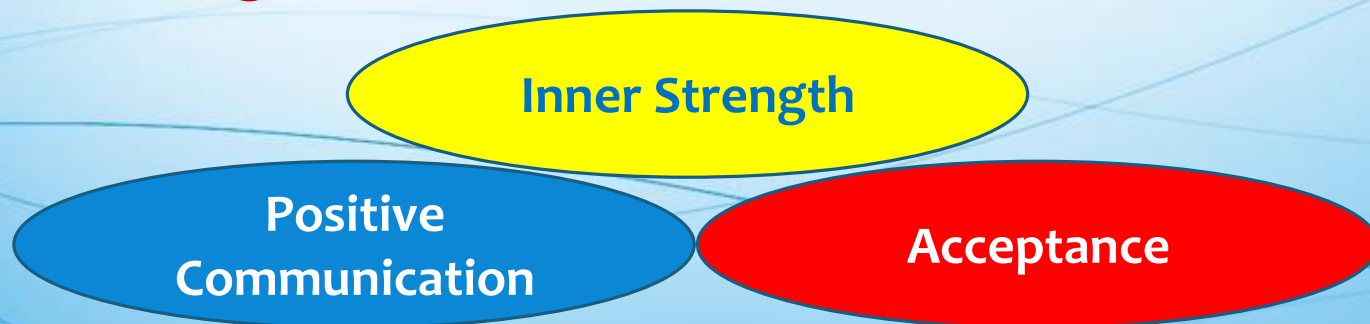
**How do we take advantage of the exciting opportunity and at the same time minimize the risks ?**

# The Challenge

- \* **How do we empower children and their ability to cope?**
- \* **How do we create openness and sharing that will make them listen to us?**
- \* **How can we support them in dealing with the complex reality that characterizes our age?**

# The Elements Way

- \* An innovative method for working with children in our age
- \* Deal successfully with the new reality
- \* Empower the children and ourselves as meaningful parents, educators, and adults
- \* Using the elements of **Positive Communication** and **Acceptance** enable the built up of the third Element **The Inner Strength**





# The Elements Way

Provide the tools that enable :

- \* **Open communication** between the adult and the child
- \* **Creation of Protected Space** for the child building trust
- \* **Creation of trust** between the adult and the child
- \* **Connection of the Child to his Inner Strength**
- \* **Enhance the ability of the child to cope with the complex reality and reach self fulfillment.**



*Have a Happy Child*

Thanks!  
