

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

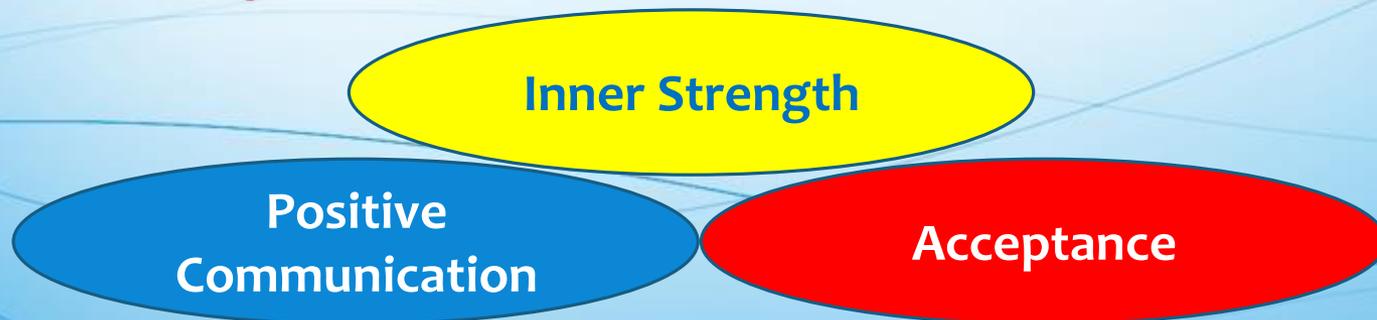
How do we take advantage of the exciting opportunity and at the same time minimize the risks ?

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!
