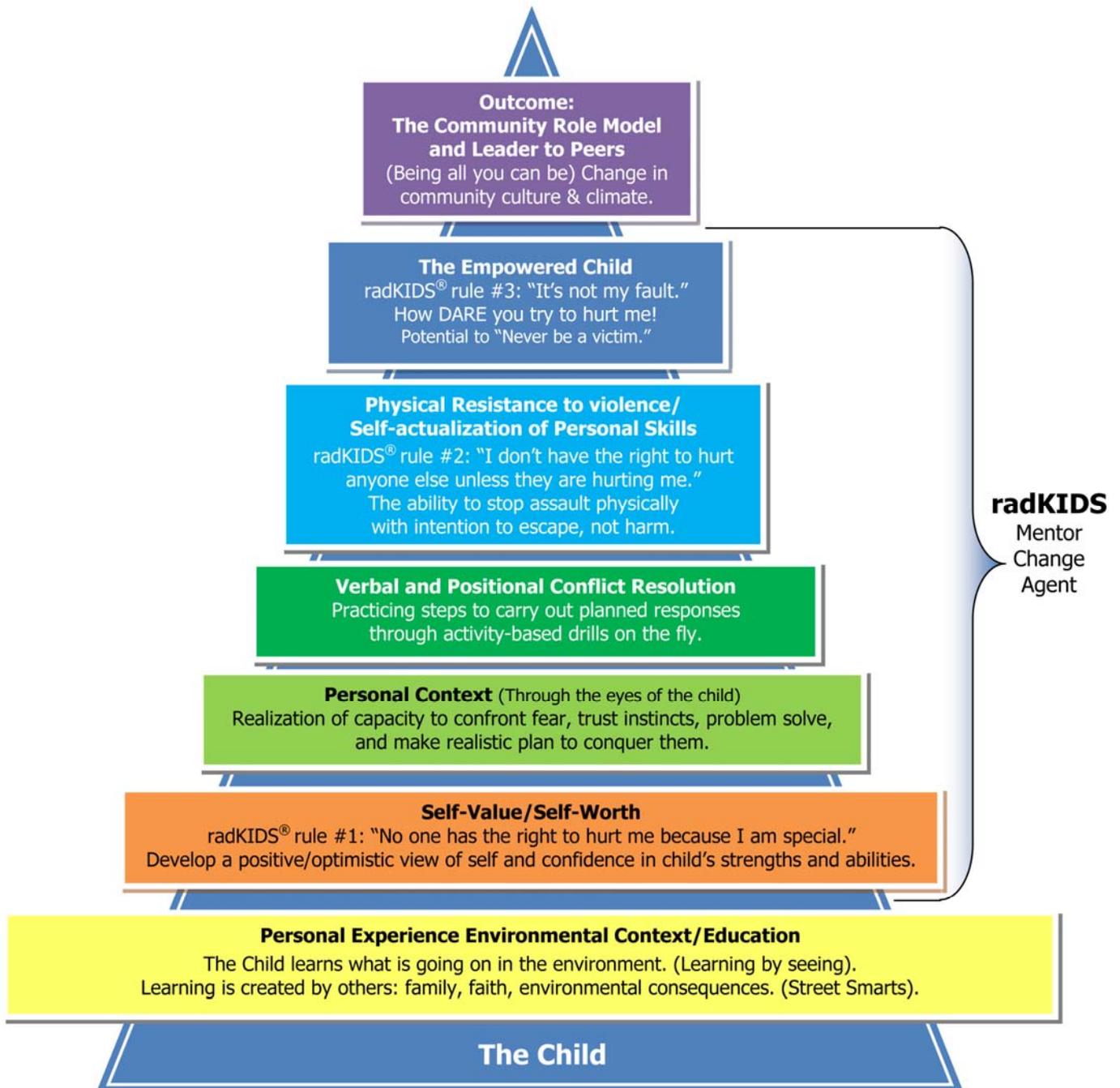


The radKIDS® Breaking the Cycle of Violence and Victimization developmental pyramid represents how radKIDS Mentors (the agents of change) develop foundational resiliency within children through the context of personal safety, while simultaneously teaching them skills to recognize, avoid, resist and if necessary escape violence and harm in their lives. This personal development of the individual child will reduce violence and victimization in our world today.

radKIDS®:
Breaking the Cycle of Violence and Victimization



It is not what happens to you in life, but how you handle it that makes us who we are. While this maybe true, without the foundational skill set to achieve a "survivor mindset" (resiliency), many children and adults fail to recover from the violence and victimization experienced in their lives.

The radKIDS Mentoring model is both training and certification. Child advocates and educators (including parents) are trained to provide a *locally based*, safe, developmental environment for the children in their community. These experts understand and respect that each child enters their classroom as individuals bringing their own personal experience, good or bad, with them (**yellow level**).

The radKIDS curriculum is anchored in enhancing a child's self-value and self-worth. Without realizing you're a valuable asset, you won't take ownership in protecting that asset. radKIDS instructors build self value through the context of personal safety. This developmental process begins by enhancing a child's foundational value and understanding of *radKIDS Rule #1: No One has the right to hurt me because I am special*. (**orange level**).

Once the core foundation of self-value is introduced, it is consistently enhanced with careful mentoring and guidance of certified instructors. Safety curriculum delivered through the mentor focuses on looking at risk through the eyes of the children (**light-green level**), stressing the concept that *No one has the right to hurt me, because I am special*. The mentor carefully guides the development of positive decision making skills, through options and choices, not based on a prescribed disengaged list of Do's and Don'ts.

The radKIDS mentor will then help their students create their own plans (radKIDS Plans) and strategies to deal the circumstance. This develops a child's Verbal and Positional Conflict Resolution skills (**dark green level**). Eventually children will learn that not everyone is a friend, and in fact some people will try to intimidate or hurt them emotionally (feelings) or physically (through violence) for no other reason than to make themselves feel stronger, or just because they want to and can. This behavior is very damaging to children who are confronted by this unprovoked behavior, believing we all should be friends. Without appropriately trained guidance and mentoring, children are left confused and victimized. radKIDS Mentors guide children to develop positive conflict resolution skills strongly entrenched in their self value and self worth (self-esteem building).

The radKIDS curriculum is multi sensory and activity based. Every cognitive concept talked about is followed up with a radKIDS Drill-On-the-Fly[®]. Children are presented with a risk scenario that they must navigate through and find their way back to safety. By experiencing the situation and successfully navigating the drill, the child gains confidence that not only will the strategy work, they have proven that "It will work for me!" It's like practicing a fire drill or practicing soccer.

Through the development of cognitive understanding enhanced with activity based experiential exercises a child's emotional resilience begins to emerge. In this way a child is not only told how to stop the violence and victimization, they are actually taught how to stop it, up to and including Physical Resistance to Violence (**light blue level**). No, they are not taught to fight, they are taught to resist aggression and with the foundation of self worth and resilience, they are taught responsibility. *radKIDS Rule #2: As a radKID you do not have the right to hurt anyone else, including yourself, because you are special, UNLESS someone is trying to hurt you, and then you have every right to "STOP" them.* The radKIDS Mentor, will show/teach children how to "STOP" anyone from physically hurting them and assist them in developing their plan for escape and to reach safety. The only thing that can truly take away the instinctual fear associated with violence and harm is education. The radKIDS Mentor and curriculum creates the opportunity for every child recognize risk and develop a personal plan to avoid or escape it, ultimately becoming the best they can be, with realistic options and choices for what they see as danger in their lives.

This is all brought to fruition with the addition of perhaps the most important radKIDS rule, *radKIDS Rule #3: radKIDS know that when anyone hurts them it is NOT THEIR FAULT. It is the fault of the person who is trying to hurt them.* So since it is not their fault, since they have done nothing to cause the conflict, THEY CAN TELL and keep telling until someone helps them. Why? Because, as we know from radKIDS rule #1, *No one has the right to hurt them, NO ONE!* And if we don't stop them we could get hurt again, or another person may be hurt (**dark blue level**).

This is where the resilient and empowered child begins to develop a sense of social responsibility (**purple level**), a sense of right and wrong and a sense of "what we can do, rather than what we cannot." This is where the essential and foundation of community change in climate and culture is rooted.

A community of trained educators-mentors, instilling value and self worth at a core level – ages 3 ½ -13, developing strong confident children with a sense social awareness and a set of guidelines will outnumber and over power the negative actions of a bully or a predator and effectively combat violence and victimization in children's lives. This is community climate / culture change is achieved by educating and empowering hearts and minds.

The true gift of the radKIDS Personal Empowerment Safety Education and model for change is preventing a child from becoming a "victim". No, we cannot guarantee that someone will not try and hurt them, but we can help them be "survivors" of violence and victimization and in fact achievers in our world. *It is not what happens to you, but how you handle it that makes you who you are.* radKIDS breaks the cycle of violence and builds a better and safer world one child at a time.