

# Helping Children Thrive

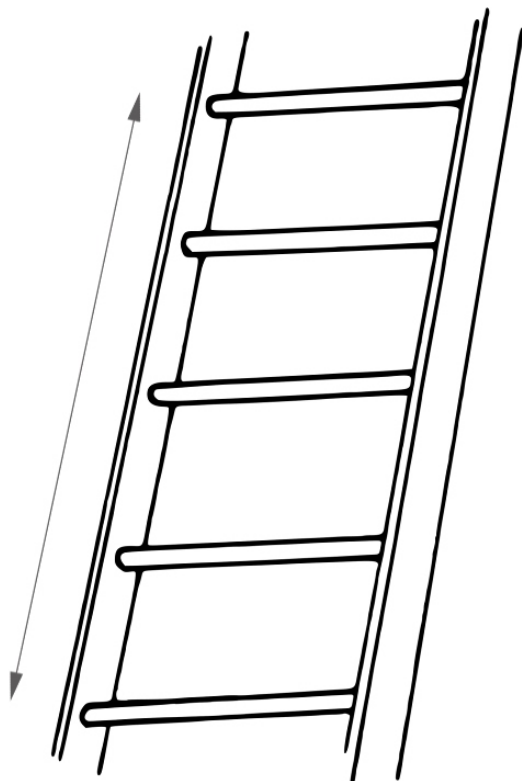
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*Based on her book: Special Needs Kids Are People Too: Seeing the Possibilities Through a Neurodiverse Lens*

Children are not underdeveloped people. They are already full persons but at different stages in development. In order to support child development, we must pay attention to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Academic learning does not come until halfway up the ladder, and those foundational needs must be met for real learning to happen! It is the relationship you build with a child that dictates the impact you can have!



## Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: Ladder Representation



**Transcendence**  
**Self-Actualization**  
**Aesthetic**  
**Cognitive**  
**Esteem**  
**Love and Belonging**  
**Safety Needs**  
**Physiological Needs**

Figure 4.2