

# MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS FOR CHILDREN

Abraham Maslow proposed a "hierarchy of human needs," often depicted as a pyramid, where it was necessary for one need to be fulfilled in order to meet the next.

The theory is that lower needs, like food and shelter, capture our attention until they are met. Thereafter, "higher" needs, can then be attained.

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs offers a simple, clear and resonant explanation for why some children have such difficulties with learning and behaviour at school.

Can you imagine what it is like to be awakened during the night by people attempting to break into your house, go to school in the winter without breakfast or a jumper, or witness your stepfather beat your mother?

Maslow's four deficiency needs must be fully met before the child is in any condition to benefit from their school experience. Children must have their physical needs met, the feeling of being safe, the love of their caregivers, and the approval of others, before they are free to learn and interact positively at school.

## Deficiency Needs

### Physiological Needs

Air, water, nourishment, good health, activity, rest, and avoidance of pain.

Addictions also operate as physiological needs.

Abuse and neglect prevent these needs being met.

### Safety Needs

Safe circumstances, stability, protection, structure, order, and limits.

Community and domestic violence, and harsh and/or inconsistent parenting prevent these needs being met.

### Love and Belonging Needs

Having others to love and a sense of belonging.

Parent death, foster care placement, lack of family stability, and divorce may prevent these needs being met.

### Esteem Needs

From others: recognition and attention. For self: worth, confidence, competence, and achievement.

Harsh/critical parenting or may prevent these needs being met.

## Growth Needs

### Cognitive Needs

Understanding and making meaning.

This is the level that schools wish to operate at. Schools in comfortable neighbourhoods usually do because lower needs are met for the great majority of students.

### Aesthetic Needs

Symmetry, order and beauty, investing emotion in learning.

### Self-Actualization

Fully functioning adult, accepting responsibility,

SELF-ACTUALIZATION NEEDS: TO FIND SELF-FULLMENT AND REALIZE ONE'S POTENTIAL

AESTHETIC NEEDS: SYMMETRY, ORDER, AND BEAUTY

COGNITIVE NEEDS: TO KNOW, UNDERSTAND AND EXPLORE

ESTEEM NEEDS: TO ACHIEVE, BE COMPETENT AND GAIN APPROVAL AND RECOGNITION

BELONGINGNESS AND LOVE NEEDS: TO AFFILIATE WITH OTHERS, BE ACCEPTED AND BELONG

SAFETY NEEDS: TO FEEL SECURE AND SAFE, OUT OF DANGERS

PHYSIOLOGICAL NEEDS: HUNGER, THIRST AND SO FORTH