

**The DYnamic Interactive Attitude List (DYAL) Author: J.M. Petri July 2006**

With pleasure, I hereby announce the publication of my new book

*The DYnamic Interactive Attitude List (DYAL); The effective mapping of behavioral dynamics between pupils, teachers and parents. A helpful tool for educational psychologists dealing with problematic pupils and classrooms.*

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This book would have been welcomed by Janusz Korczak. Here is a psychologist who, during his work in primary and secondary schools in Israel, observed how easily children are defined as problems, whereas in most cases feelings of teachers and parents were dominant and the child's feelings skipped. The approach in this book defends the children and makes use of the way children define their situation.

I confess that the title is not from my heart. In fact, I wanted to call the book, *The Treasure of the Unknown Truth*. I changed it because the world of pedagogy and educational psychology listens to numbers, statistics and hard-to-pronounce words, not to experience or feelings. I can explain this only with a story. A 4-year-old boy was temporarily put into a children's home, together with his twin sister, because their mentally handicapped brother, two years older than they were, demanded all of their mother's attention. When I returned to visit them back at their own home, the boy refused to look at his mother. Not then and never again. The boy and his sister felt that they had been in the home for 'a year'. 'No,' said his mother, 'it was just for a month.' Whatever the mother, his sister and the boy himself tried to do about it, their lives went on with the feeling that it had been a year. He and his sister have long since grown up, but... they had spent a year in that orphanage. The truth as a child sees it holds no weight against the facts as adults present them. Every attempt at discussing that period runs aground as long as the boy and his sister's experience is not taken seriously. I call this the 'unknown truth'. In schools, this phenomenon shows up every single day.

A pupil feels that he or she is doing his best. He thinks he is a good person and is hurt and offended when a teacher calls him lazy. In my book, I introduce and examine a simple approach to behavioral problems, intended to bring out that unknown truth, pay it the justice it is due and make use of it to resolve the problem. Many children and adolescents live with feelings that no one ever asks about. It is like the example of the big dog, when adults have told a child over and over again that he does not bite, but the child continues to cry, because he is afraid. This is his truth, and the adults cannot get around that truth. Using questions that are interactively asked and answered, this book shows pupils, teachers and parents how feelings, thoughts, expectations and tendencies to responsive action all relate to one another.

Herein lies the strength of this approach: the unknown truth is revealed and is now there to be made use of. After all the talking to a pupil, as a result of a simple questionnaire, it suddenly comes out that a pupil is afraid of a teacher. The teacher is genuinely shocked to hear this, and here the child's unknown truth becomes a treasure trove. It is this unknown truth of the child which proves to be the key to solving problematic situations. That truth opened the door to resolving the problem, for when made aware of his pupil's feelings, he responded accordingly, and it was possible for the two to meet. That 'meeting' literally means to come together, removing the impediment. This book is a must for everyone involved with children or young people between four and seventeen years of age, for school administrators, teachers, parents, social workers and others, whatever their role.

***The Dynamic Interactive Attitude List* can be ordered by contacting the author: [petrigriega@hetnet.nl](mailto:petrigriega@hetnet.nl)  
The price is 15 Euro, payable by bank transfer to: J.M. Petri account number 0040316**

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