Are you afraid of getting a diagnosis for your child?

Let’s talk about all the great things that happen after your child is diagnosed:

1. Access to life-changing resources
2. Insurance pays for services
3. Accommodations become widely accepted
4. Explanations for behavior rather than just being “the bad kid”
5. Extra help to complete tasks and learning requirements
6. Introduction to a new community of support, both for the child and family
7. Creation of an IFSP/IEP: legal documentation requiring caregivers to provide necessary support
8. Qualification for therapies and services that help your child work through tough behaviors and emotions, build skills, and create lasting relationships
9. Support in the classroom extends to success in the community and at home
10. Gained understanding of what will help your child succeed– what works and what doesn’t for their individual needs

Diagnoses open doors and clear paths for children. No child is perfect, not even neurotypical children. Everyone has their own needs and individual personalities that grow and change differently. Advocating for your child and helping them gain access to things that will ensure their success early is the key. Accepting a diagnosis allows YOU to craft the narrative for your child rather than allowing others to craft a narrative surrounding their behaviors. Your child is no different now than they were prior to the diagnosis– still the same wonderful and perfect baby you always had. Diagnoses make life easier for everyone involved and are only used to help the child. Try not to simplify it down to just a label. Getting extra help is nothing to feel ashamed of.