



WhisperWild™

The Science Behind Engagement First™

Engagement is not a feature. It is the mechanism.



THE TRADITIONAL GROOMING EXPERIENCE



Stress comes before the cut.



THE ENGAGEMENT FIRST™ MODEL



Regulation comes before the cut.



THE SCIENCE: WHY ENGAGEMENT FIRST™ WORKS

1 SENSORY PROCESSING & THE THRESHOLD PROBLEM



Children have different sensory thresholds. When input exceeds a child's tolerance, the nervous system shifts into a protective state (fight, flight, or freeze). Cooperation, communication, and flexibility drop rapidly.

RESEARCH SHOWS

Sensory processing differences are a foundational factor in behavioral responses.

DESIGN IMPLICATION



2 PREDICTABILITY REDUCES ANTICIPATORY STRESS



Routines and predictable cues help children anticipate what happens next, lowering stress and freeing up coping resources.

RESEARCH SHOWS

Consistent routines are linked to lower stress and improved behavioral functioning.

WHISPER WILD APPLICATION



3 CO-REGULATION: THE BRIDGE TO SELF-REGULATION



Children learn to manage emotions by borrowing regulation from trusted adults. Co-regulation is a key pathway to building independent self-regulation skills.

RESEARCH SHOWS

Co-regulation supports the development of emotion regulation and stress management.

DESIGN IMPLICATION



THE WHISPER WILD METHOD™

1 PRIME

Introduce a short, familiar "ready" routine the child recognizes.



2 CUE

Provide predictable sensory signals (light & sound) to set expectation.



3 PARTICIPATE

Invite the child to engage—press, choose, or say "ready."



4 GROOM

Begin grooming only after readiness is achieved. Use gentle ramp-up & consistent timing.



ENGAGEMENT CREATES REGULATION. REGULATION ENABLES COOPERATION. COOPERATION ENABLES SAFE GROOMING. ♥

WHY WHISPER WILD IS DIFFERENT

TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS	VS.	WHISPER WILD APPROACH
✗ Focus on Cutting	✂	✓ Focus on Engagement First
✗ Compliance & Restraint	👤	✓ Participation & Choice
✗ Reduce Injury	🛡	✓ Reduce Distress
✗ React to Meltdowns	🧠	✓ Prevent Meltdowns
✗ Cute Design	★	✓ Therapeutic Design
✗ One-Size-Fits-All	👤	✓ Sensory-Informed Solutions

BACKED BY RESEARCH



DUNN'S SENSORY PROCESSING FRAMEWORK
Explains how children differ in sensory thresholds and regulation strategies.



ROUTINES & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Predictable routines reduce stress and support engagement and learning.



CO-REGULATION RESEARCH
Caregiver co-regulation builds the foundation for self-regulation.



OT & SENSORY INTEGRATION
Evidence-based strategies include predictability, choice, and graded exposure.

THE RESULT

A CALMER CHILD. A COOPERATIVE EXPERIENCE.
A BETTER OUTCOME FOR EVERYONE.

