

1. THE REAL-TIME NDQ FORMULA & 8 OBSERVATION SLIDERS (0–10 SCALE)

Replaces the compliance FBA with a live 0–100% Flight Level snapshot

$$\text{NDQ} = [(\text{Dynamic Safety [DS]} \times \text{Dynamic Capacity [DC]}) + \text{Motivation [M]}] \div 110 \times 100\%$$

ZERO RULE: If DS = 0 or DC = 0, (DS × DC) = 0!

🛡️ Dynamic Safety (DS) 0–10

$$\text{DS} = [C \times (A + I) - D] \div 20$$

- 🧠 **Connection (C) [Multiplier]:** Attunement & feeling seen (0 wipes out DS).
- 🎮 **Autonomy (A) [Amplifier]:** Real choice, agency & shared control.
- 📄 **Information (I) [Amplifier]:** Clear plan & knowing what is next.
- 📋 **Demands (D) [Drain]:** Direct imperatives & pressure (subtracted).

⚡ Dynamic Capacity (DC) 0–10

$$\text{DC} = (B + R) - S \text{ (Capped 0–10)}$$

- 🔋 **Battery (B):** Body reserves—sleep, food, water & stamina.
- 🔧 **Resources (R):** Active scaffolds—co-regulation, visuals, sensory tools.
- 🧠 **Strategic Cost (S) [Drain]:** Sensory/Praxis tax, transitions & masking.

🌟 Motivation (M) 0–10

$$+ M \text{ (The Afterburner)}$$

- 🌟 **Interest Flow:** Intrinsic passion adds up to +10 lift on top of (DS × DC).
- ❓ **Why ÷ 110?** Max (DS × DC) is 100 + Max M (10) = 110 raw points.
- 🛑 **Rule:** M cannot rescue 0 Safety!

2. THE 4 ALTITUDE FLIGHT ZONES & NAVIGATOR ACTION PLAN

Executive functioning (EF) access is altitude-dependent, not capacity-dependent

Altitude Flight Zone	NDQ Score	Pilot Brain & EF Instrument Status	Navigator Support Protocol (NASF Action)
Zone 4: Clear Skies	80–100%	Full EF access online; <i>Blue Sky Capable</i> flow window open.	Optimal window for novel learning, problem-solving, therapy insight & relational repair.
Zone 3: Light Turbulence	60–79%	3–4 EF instruments online; mild autonomy or sensory friction.	Proactive scaffolding: declarative language, micro-choices, visual roadmaps & sensory tools.
Zone 2: Severe Turbulence	40–59%	1–2 instruments online; Primary Seeker Stall active; speed drops.	Reduce demands immediately: shift to <i>Inanimate Boss</i> , co-regulated launch & <i>Recovery Mode</i> .
Zone 1: Emergency Landing	0–39%	All EF instruments dark; amygdala survival hijack (fight/flight/freeze).	Mayday Protocol (20-Min Radio Silence): Safety only. Zero teaching, lectures, or consequences.

3. ANATOMY OF THE STALL CASCADE: THE 4 NEURODYNAMIC SEEKER PROFILES

Meet the Pilot at their stalled safety channel rather than reacting to surface behavior

01. SENSORY SEEKER Physical Threat → Motor Freeze

Anchor: Predictable body feedback & physical safety.
Stall: Sensory overload locks muscles (1°) → forced stillness triggers shutdown/release (2°).
Restore: Somatic grounding, chosen movement, lowered sensory load & safe positioning.

02. INFORMATION SEEKER Knowledge Gaps → Brain Lock

Anchor: Clear logic, frameworks & knowing what comes next.
Stall: Uncertainty drives question loops (1°) → hunting for certainty drains DC into brain lock (2°).
Restore: Predictive clarity, visual steps, honest knowns/unknowns & permission to pause.

03. CONNECTION SEEKER Mixed Signals → Identity Crash

Anchor: Relational attunement, warm mirroring & shared presence.
Stall: Tone shifts feel rejecting, driving fawning (1°) → masking depletes reserves into withdrawal (2°).
Restore: Unconditional co-regulation, warm nonverbal presence & bond validation.

04. AUTONOMY SEEKER Perceived Coercion → Lost Navigation

Anchor: Self-determination, pace control & holding the flight controls.
Stall: Imperatives trigger pushback (1°) → forced compliance triggers fight/flight or initiation freeze (2°).
Restore: Declarative language, spacious pacing, micro-choices & *Inanimate Boss* framing.

THE PDA NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE & NASF

8 Measurable Domains, 3 Signature Findings & Nervous-System Access Accommodations

"Brain Detective" & "ODD Buster"
30+ Years in the Field · 20 Years Licensed
Difference, Not Deficit · Support & Navigate

1. THREE SIGNATURE FINDINGS CLINICIANS & EDUCATORS MISREAD

Same Person · Same Day · Different Altitude (On-Demand vs. Off-Line Flow)

SIGNATURE FINDING 01 Prompt-Dependent Memory Mechanism: Knowledge is encoded, but stress gates free recall. Free recall fails; cued succeeds. Navigate: Compare free vs. cued recall; use visual menus and low-demand cues in class/therapy.	SIGNATURE FINDING 02 Demand-Depressed PSI Mechanism: Parallel threat- and autonomy-scanning consume bandwidth, compressing PSI. Navigate: The brain is multitasking survival. Allow spacious time and compare autonomous pacing.	SIGNATURE FINDING 03 Expressive Language Paradox Mechanism: Verbal IQ may test Superior (equalizing armor), yet collapses under peak demand. Navigate: High VCI ≠ speech under threat. Offer opt-in non-speaking check-ins (<i>Teen Companion</i>).
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2. THE 8-DOMAIN NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE & DIFFERENTIAL MECHANISM

Converging profile across Autism, Complex Trauma, 2e/Giftedness, ADHD & Dyspraxia

Clinical Profile Domain	Neurodynamic Mechanism (Under the Hood)	Neuro-Affirming Differential & Support Lens
1. Autonomy-Threat Anxiety	Amygdala survival response triggered by perceived control loss or hierarchy.	vs. GAD: Targeted to control loss vs. diffuse worry; use client-led agency over top-down ERP.
2. EF Initiation Lock	Intact executive architecture locks up involuntarily on imposed tasks.	vs. ODD: Involuntary EF collapse, not defiance. Consequences drop DS to 0 and worsen behavior.
3. Demand-Depressed PSI	Threat-scanning competes for working memory and bandwidth under evaluation.	vs. ADHD: PDA is <i>access-based</i> (online in flow); classic ADHD is a <i>capacity-based</i> difference.
4. Prompt-Dependent Memory	Cortisol cascade blocks uncued free retrieval while recognition stays intact.	Document the free-vs.-cued gap explicitly so teams never misread blocks as "poor effort."
5. Expressive Language Paradox	High-register verbal masking under mild threat; shutdown at peak load.	Honor both verbal strengths and shutdown vulnerability across reports and therapy.
6. Spiky / 2e Learning Profile	High conceptual reasoning paired with steep drops on coerced/motor work.	vs. NVLD: Similar VCI-PSI & adaptive gap, but triggered by interpersonal demand vs. spatial novelty.
7. Sensory & Praxis Tax	Sensory filtering, posture, and motor planning drain Dynamic Capacity (DC).	Separate dyspraxia/praxis load from willingness; never make sensory rest an earned reward.
8. Social Equalization	Intact empathy paired with humor, negotiation, or role-play to flatten hierarchy.	vs. Non-PDA Autism: Social intuition is intact, but interpersonal demands rapidly deplete capacity.

3. NASF IN ACTION: 4 CORE ACCOMMODATION SHIFTS (REPLACING COMPLIANCE BIPS)

Rule: When consequences worsen behavior & autonomy restores access, support the mechanism

SHIFT 1: LOW DYNAMIC SAFETY (DS) Autonomic Threat Replace imperatives, countdowns, clip charts, and level systems with declarative language, micro-choices, and Inanimate Boss framing (timers, neutral checklists).	SHIFT 2: EXECUTIVE LOCK The Initiation Paradox Replace rigid "First/Then" compliance boards with co-regulated launches, gentle retrieval cues, visual menus, and starting mid-task to bypass initiation lock.
SHIFT 3: SOCIAL EQUALIZATION Flattening Hierarchy Support staff, parents, and clinicians to recognize humor, role-play, and negotiation as adaptive threat-reduction strategies ("Brain Detective" partnership) vs. manipulation.	SHIFT 4: LOW DYNAMIC CAPACITY Sensory/Praxis Tax Build proactive, non-contingent Recovery Mode zones into the schedule, reduce motor-planning load, and calibrate expectations via live NDQ Flight Level check-ins .