

The Circle of Courage



The Circle of Courage model portrays four growth needs of all children: Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity. This philosophy emerged from collaboration of [Martin Brokenleg](#), a professor of [Native American Studies](#), and [Larry Brendtro](#), a professor in children's behavior disorders. They studied how traditional [indigenous cultures](#) reared children without resorting to coercive discipline. The Circle of Courage is illustrated as a [medicine wheel](#) with four directions.

The model was adopted to youth services in [South Africa](#) during the administration of [Nelson Mandela](#) under the leadership of Minister Geraldine Moloketi and Lesley du Toit. This led in 2005 to the Response Ability Pathways (RAP) curriculum which provides training on applying the Circle of Courage to all who work with youth.^[2]

The Circle of Courage provides the philosophical foundation for the work of Reclaiming Youth International (RYI), a 501(c)(3) non-profit company dedicated to helping adults better serve children and youth who are in emotional pain from conflict in the family, school, community, peer groups or with self.

IHAD Values, Objectives and the Circle of Courage

I Have a Dream remains centred on its values... whilst developing the 4 areas of the circle of courage in the lives of our tamariki... surrounded by our year-to-year objectives/goals to pathway students towards life success.

