

## When Parents Are Anxious Too:

# How Pediatricians Can Help Families Break the Cycle

What Pediatricians Should Know—and What They Can Gently Say



#### School & Activity Avoidance?

Letting the child skip school or regular activities due to anxiety or physical complaints.

#### Trigger Avoidance?

Skipping crowded places, avoiding social situations, or speaking for the child to prevent distress.

#### Excessive Reassurance?

Answering the same fear-based questions repeatedly or soothing anxieties multiple times a day.

#### **Changed Family Routines?**

Altering daily routines or giving in quickly to avoid meltdowns and keep the child calm.

## 🚰 4 TIPS TO HELP THEM

#### Validate Emotions

Calmly acknowledge your child's feelings without immediately trying to fix the problem.

### **Encourage Bravery**

Gently encourage your child to face anxious situations with your steady support and reassurance.

#### Maintain Routines

Keep predictable daily routines to help your child feel secure during changes or transitions.

#### Use Visual Schedules

Create visual schedules to clearly show daily activities and ease anxiety about upcoming events.

## **₩** WHEN TO REFER

If anxiety is disrupting a child's daily life—or if parents feel overwhelmed—consider referring to a child psychologist. We offer evidence-based therapy for children and teens, with parent-focused support to reduce anxiety through resilience, not avoidance.



Follow the Aspire:
Parenting With
Confidence channel
on WhatsApp

#### Need a Trusted Referral? We're Here to Help.

If a child's anxiety is interfering with daily life—or if parents feel stuck—call my practice.



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