

*“And how are the children?”* The Masai tribe in Africa believes that the health of the village is measured by the well-being of the children and the future generation. Instead of asking, "How are you?", community members greet each other by asking "Casserian Engeri?" which translates to "And how are the children?". Jill Dockerty has been asking this question her entire life by dedicating her time and expertise to supporting the well-being of the children in her community.

Living in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin with her two teenage boys and her extended and blended family, Jill has learned to navigate the maze of the public education system, the healthcare system, and community programs each and every day. Her oldest son was provided an IEP at the age of six and was diagnosed with ADHD, anxiety, and Oppositional Defiant Disorder when he was eight. In addition, her younger son has Down syndrome and a multitude of complex health challenges. Jill knows the heartache and loneliness that parents feel when their child is not thriving. Her entire family was suffering from the chaos that ensues when a child is lashing out at the world. After many years of trying “it all”, it seemed as if nothing was working. In fact, her son’s behavior just kept getting worse and more aggressive, leaving her feeling hopeless and isolated. Finding little support in the mental health system or at school, Jill discovered Parent Management Training and was able to experience the success of the PMT program first-hand. By following the program and putting the skills into place, her son’s aggression decreased and her entire family has been transformed as a result. It left her asking, ‘Why wasn’t I shown how to do this before now?’”

Parents and caregivers are a child's first and most important teachers. Yet, the knowledge and skills necessary to support struggling children is not often available to those who need it most. Oftentimes, parents are left feeling helpless when using what are thought of as traditional behavior management strategies. After almost 30 years in the field of education, Jill believes that it takes a village to raise our community’s children. Dedicated to the use of evidence-based practices, Jill specializes in training and delivering programs that guarantee successful outcomes for children and families. Her passion is breaking down barriers for children with behavior and learning challenges, including children with IEPs, children who are neurodiverse, and children from historically marginalized populations. Jill's vast array of experiences include educating and caring for children from early childhood to post-graduation, building the capacity of educators and administrators, supporting and educating parents and caregivers, and designing instruction for adult learners. As a behavior consultant with the Parent Management Training Institute, Jill will work with you and your village to help you gain the skills and knowledge needed to transform your child’s aggressive and oppositional behavior and to help your entire family find more peace. She will begin each session with you by asking, “And how are the children?” and she believes that one day, you will answer, “They are well. *The children are well.*”

