



**Episode #84:**

**Karen Young of Hey Sigmund Talks About  
Anxiety in Kids**

November 21, 2017

Karen: Everybody gets anxiety some of the time we wouldn't be alive if we didn't, that's what keeps us alive. So it's just a part of being human, but it's, you know, sometimes it happens too much, so basically it's about just trying to melt away the stigma and saying we'll do some of this stuff some of the time. Let's just apologize it so we can get on with supporting ourselves and each other and feeling okay about where we're at without first of all having to get over the hump of feeling broken and like there's something wrong because it's just a part of being human.

Debbie: Welcome to the TiLT Parenting Podcast, a podcast featuring interviews and conversations aimed at inspiring, informing, and supporting parents raising differently wired kids. I'm your host, Debbie Reber, and today I'm talking with the founder of the popular website Hey Sigmund. Karen Young founded Hey Sigmund after realizing the power of solid information, it quickly became hugely popular and on it she shares the latest research and news on psychology with everyday people. What attracted me to Karen's website is that it frequently features fascinating comprehensive and easy to digest articles on issues surrounding kids, emotional and mental well-being with a special focus on anxiety in kids. So that's what we're talking about in depth today, anxiety in children. Karen's also going to tell us about her new book, which she wrote specifically for children with anxiety called *Hey Warrior*.

By the way, if you're new to the podcast in my last episode, I interviewed a mom about her journey of raising two kids with anxiety disorder, so if you haven't listened yet, and anxiety is something that's touching your family, you can check that out to it's at [tiltparenting.com/session83](http://tiltparenting.com/session83). And after you've listened to the episode, don't forget to over to [tiltparenting.com/Aftertheshow](http://tiltparenting.com/Aftertheshow), each week, I share one to two minute video where I share my biggest takeaways from my podcast conversations or tips about taking what you've learned in making it work for your family. When you go to my After the Show page, you can sign up to get new episodes of the podcast and after the show series delivered to your inbox each week and now I'll get on with my conversation with Karen.

Debbie: Hey Karen, welcome to the podcast.

Karen: Thank you. Thank you for having me.

Debbie: Well, I've been wanting to do this for a while. I discovered, Hey Sigmund when I was first researching TiLT Parenting and I was instantly in love. I just thought that the designs beautiful. The content was, and continues to be, just so thoughtful and powerful and yeah, and I share your content a lot with the tilt community, so it's a real honor to be able to bring you on the podcast and talk to you about what you're up to.

Karen: Thank you. Thank you. Well, the respect is mutual and I'm really excited to chat with you today.

Debbie: Well, let's start by introducing you to our listeners. So we know that you are the creator of Hey Sigmund, but could you tell us a little bit about your story and what you do and kind of your personal why for creating Hey Sigmund?

Karen: So I started as a psychologist and I was in private practice and I did a teaching in personal growth groups and one to one counseling and then I stopped for a little while to stay at home with my kids and then I wanted to come back in because I actually loved working as a psychologist. I loved it and I missed it when I wasn't doing it, so I wanted to come back in, but I just wanted to do something where I could have a broader reach. And when I was in practice, what I was really aware of was that when I was working with kids that parents just needed the information and they could do really great things with the information. So I didn't, it wasn't so much what I did, but when parents knew the information that we, psychologists knew they could do really great stuff.

And so basically that's where Hey Sigmund started was. I just want people to have the information that we have as psychologists. And you know, parents are the ones who are most connected to their kids and have the most influence and they have a lot of power and so with information, with solid information they can do really great things. And so that's when I started the website and at first I thought, oh, I don't know about psychology on the Internet, I'm not sure that that'll fly, but you know, it has worked out. And I'm really grateful for that.

Debbie: That's fantastic. How long ago did you start it?

Karen: We are coming up to I think three, would be three years in November, so it kind of started it slow and then we were, I was crawling. And then it was actually the anxiety post that did it for me in March of the next year and it's sort of been going since then. So it was just, I think I was really lucky and it was the end of information that was needed at the time I had it, I suppose. So it's a lovely collusion of events.

Debbie: I think, you know, you're an interpreter for so many of us and what I was struck by when I discovered your site is just again, the richness of the content and you really are talking about these fascinating issues, emotional intelligence and a lot of brain science concepts, but you present it in a way that is really understandable and a way that we as parents can apply it. And again, I'm such a visual person and I think that so much of what exists for parents, especially parents like me raising differently wired kids aesthetically, it's not so pleasing and you know, the whole experience of your site, I just really vibed with it. And so I'm not surprised with the success that you've had, but I was, I was so curious because you have readers all over the world. Your site is quite popular. So I was wondering, you know, how that happened and if you were expecting that?

Karen: No, I really. To be honest, when I started this, I didn't know where it was going to end up, I didn't. I just started. And I think when you're on the right track, the path widens up to take you. And honestly that's what happened. And so I started it. I didn't know, I started it from my kitchen bench. I didn't know where I

wanted to end up. I just knew that this was how it would start and where it would finish I didn't know and I was just going to keep putting one foot in front of the other. And I had no idea it would be with kids. I had no idea it would be with anxiety, but I think it's a really great time for psychology because we, well in the last 10 years or so where we're learning so much about the brain and the way we're wired because of technology. And so being able to translate that into, you know, a way that we can understand, think it's a really great time in psychology. And for me, I really need to break something down to understand it. It's not like I can just read a scientific paper and understand it straight away. I have to sit with it and break it down and wrestle it. And then by the time I've done that, I can understand it in a way that is easy to explain

Debbie: ...and then you share it with the rest of us and that works for us. The name I didn't mention earlier that I wanted to ask you this, but I'm curious about the name. Hey Sigmund. Where'd that come from?

Karen: Oh my goodness. This website was harder to name than my children and I'm not kidding. And it was way of different ideas and nothing felt right. And then honestly, I was getting into the car one day at a hardware store and I went, Hey Sigmund. That's where it came from. And it was more like, because people think of psychology sometimes and it can feel a little bit vague and a little bit, you know, not scientific enough. And I think that comes from Freud who, who did it, who did a lot of great things, but also I did a lot of things that didn't land so well and still don't land very well but did a lot of great things. So this is kind of like, Hey Sigmund, we've got some new stuff for you, or Hey Sigmund, this is what we know now. So it's kind of, it's kind of blending the, you know, the historical elements of psychology and kind of where it started and its roots with the modern take.

Debbie: That's awesome. I love that story. One of the things that you say on your website in your about page is that "because sometimes the only diagnosis is human." Can you say more about that phrase? I mean that really connected with me.

Karen: So anything to do with mental health can bring so much stigma. But the thing is so many things that come with a diagnosis happened on a, on a spectrum. So we've all, we all get a little bit of everything. Some of the time and sometimes it's just part of our human way. We're not broken. There's nothing wrong with us. We don't even need fixing. We just need the right information to move out of it or support or commission to even stay in this space for a little while. And that's one of the things with anxiety. It's not a broken brain, it's a brain that's doing what it's meant to do, but a little bit more often in everybody gets anxiety some of the time we wouldn't be alive if we didn't know what keeps us alive, so it's just a part of being human, but it's, you know, sometimes that happens too much, but basically it's about just trying to melt away the stigma and saying we all do some of this stuff some of the time, let's just deep apologize it so we can get on with supporting ourselves and each other and feeling OK about where we're at without first of all having to get over the hump of feeling broken and like there's something wrong because it's just a part of being human.

Debbie: Now I know more of why I resonate so much with your site because you just use some of the language we have on our homepage that differently wired kids, these aren't deficits. They're not broken. They're not kids in need of fixing. So I love that language and that idea that yeah, we're all, we all have stuff going on some of the time and yeah, that human experience, it's very awesome

Karen: And it's the richness of being human, you know, and the richness of being with other humans is that it doesn't always feel perfect or happy or the way it's meant to feel. But that's part of it. It's vulnerability sometimes our greatest strengths, but it's being able to understand them enough and understand them and move forward with strength and not feeling broken.

Debbie: Well let's talk about anxiety a little more. That is kind of a big focus of the content. So I'd love to know more about how that happened and why anxiety is one of those issues that you're so passionate about.

Karen: So when this started, my daughter, it got personal. I think that's the easy answer is to why I'm so passionate about it now. But I started the website in November and the following year, so in Australia our school years are January to December, and the following year my daughter was moving from junior school to middle school and it was just across the road. It was a small school, she'd been there since grade two, so she was moving, into grade seven saying friends and she was really happy at this school just across the road, but you know, the format will be different. The teachers are different and she had been saying for a while, she'd been getting headaches and she'd been having trouble sleeping and feeling sick in the tummy and all of the things that I should've picked up on sooner than I did, but I just thought, you know, she's just tired. It's the start of the school year, it'll go away and then one day it just clicked after a couple of weeks and I went, I know what she's got, she's got anxiety and I showed how I should've picked up on before then, but I didn't. And that's okay.

And so when we're on our way soccer, which she'd been doing for a long, long time. And she said, mom, I've got that feeling again. And I said, OK, does it feel like this? And I went through the symptoms that I talk about in, Hey Warrior. So does your heart feel racy? Does your tummy feel this? Do you feel a bit sweaty? Does it feel like that feeling you get when you miss a stair? And she said, that's exactly what it is. It feels like that feeling of falling when you're almost asleep. So that was her line and I said, OK, you've got this thing called anxiety and here's why you feel like you do. And then I explained all of the physical symptoms. Again, everything that's in Hey Warrior and on the website,

And I said, now this is what you need to do when you feel like this, and this is why it's happening. It's happening because your brain is trying to protect you because it thinks there's something it needs to protect you from. There isn't, but brains don't always. You know, do what we want them to. They they. It's instinct. So what you need to do is when you feel like that is breathed really slow, deep breaths because that reverses the surge of neurochemicals, which I'd spoken to her about. That's what happens with anxiety. It's the brain's surging

with neurochemicals to get you ready for fight or flight and every physical symptom is to do with those neurochemicals and to get you ready to be stronger, faster, more alert, more powerful. The problem with anxiety is if there's nothing to fight or flee than your chemicals build up, and that's what anxiety feels awful and it can feel like there's something awful about to happen.

So that feeds into anxious thoughts. Then that feeds back into anxious feelings and it's a bit of a loop. So to break the loop and I said to her, you need to breathe, and what that does is that reverses everything. It starts, starts to neutralize everything and it brings your brain back to feeling calm and it pulls in the thinking part of your brain. And you know, we went through basically the book, *Hey Warrior*, before the book was written. And then I started her on mindfulness and she's already exercising. So that was OK. And a couple of weeks later she came to me and she said, mom, that stuff you said, it really helped. Now when I think she was 12 at the time, and when a 12 year old comes and says, mom, what you did really worked, I kind of, you know, I went, OK, that's better, probably did work because they don't often tell you when you strike gold.

And so, and so it went, she really was able to manage it so she'd still get anxious sometimes, but she was able to manage it so he was able to make it work for her and then mindfulness and all the rest of it. So she understood what she had to do to manage it, which was breathing and why exercise worked and why mindfulness work. So we explained everything and then I said to her one night, are you OK if I write about what I told you on my website? And I said, not many people read my website so you'll be OK.

And she said, and she said, OK, as long as not many people read it. And I did have a sentence about her, which I think I might've taken out since, but that was the post that went, it just went off. And that kind of started the whole website and so I thought, well, this is information that people clearly want to hear about and want to know about, so I'm going to give it and that's when it started and you know, the more, the more you do something, the more it works where you want to do it and *Hey Warrior* came from that post and that, that conversation with my daughter. So it's basically that conversation, in a book, for kids. And I suppose the passion easy when it's a little bit personal.

Debbie: Well I think so many of us create what we, what we need, right? If it doesn't exist for our either for ourselves, the tools that we as parents need or for our kids, then that's how the great things come. So. Well, you've talked about the book a little bit. Um, let's go there a little more. So this is a new book you've, you've written, it's a children's book. Can you give us some more details about it?

Karen: Basically it talks about anxiety, because anxiety comes from a part of the brain called the Amygdala, which is a really primitive, really instinctive, that's been doing what it does for as long as people have been people. So that's really good at what it does and its whole job really is to get us ready to fight or flee to, to keep us safe when there's danger. Now the thing about it is it doesn't mean there's danger there, so sometimes the brain can be a bit over-reactive or a bit

over protective. So the way to think of anxiety, it's not as something broken and not as something that's going to hurt you or says something mean in your brain, but it's something that's like a fierce warrior there to protect you. So that's how I described in the book and that's how I described it to my daughter.

Karen: So it's like a fierce warrior there to protect you. So when it thinks you might be in trouble, it will search your body with a special body fuel to make you stronger, faster, more powerful. Now, the first thing that happens is your breathing changes from slow, deep breathing like you'd normally breath, to short, shallow breathing, and that's to conserve oxygen, so because your body will need it to fight or flee, then your heart starts beating really quickly and that can be really scary because it can feel like you're going to die. It can be really scary, but hearts know what they're doing and you'll have is just doing that to pump the fuel around your body, to get it to the muscles so that I can do what I need to do to keep you safe. Then your arms and legs might get tight. That's why sometimes you get shaky and wobbly that's the neurochemicals going to your muscles in your arms or legs or that can your legs so they can fly you around so they can fight.

Your body starts to sweat to cool itself down in case it has to fight or flee. That's why it can be really clammy of your sweaty even on a really cold day and be one of the things that happens is any process in your body that isn't absolutely necessary for your survival in that moment will shut down. It'll just take a little break. It'll come on as soon as everything safe and everything's fine again, so it's no big deal, but it feels like a big deal. So when your digestion shuts down, that's how you can get butterflies. We can feel like you're going to vomit and that can feel really awful too. So there are all of these physical symptoms that happen with anxiety that can feed into those. I feel awful and it feels scary and I feel panicked, so there must be something bad that's going to happen, but they're all there for a really good reason and that's to protect you.

It's to look after you. So that's why when there's a ball, a basketball coming at your head, you could, you could act super quickly before you'd even notice that basketball, your brain has registered and it's getting you ready and you can move really quickly. It's why you know, you hear stories about mothers lifting branches off cars, to save their babies and fireman running people out of buildings. That's when it works well, that sort of neurochemicals, so it's all there to keep us safe, but sometimes it can be overprotective and work too hard and it can sense the Amygdala can sense threat or danger when there's no threat or danger there, and that's OK, but what happens is with these surges of neurochemicals, but if there's nothing to burn them off, which is what happens if there's nothing to fight or flee, there's no danger. The neurochemicals build up and that's what anxiety feels really awful and frightening and that can also feed into anxiety about the anxiety.

Karen: So if there's something happens at school drop-off, that anxiety is triggered and it can only happen once. Then that memory of that anxiety can be. I remember how I feel when I'm about to be dropped off. It feels scary and I, I feel like I'm going to vomit or my head feels tight. So it's anxiety about the anxiety. So by

explaining where anxiety comes from and explaining it, if it's like this little warrior in your brain that's trying to protect you, but what you need to do is be the boss of your brain because at the moment your brain's kind of calling all the shots that it'll work better when you're in charge and you kind of like a team. So that's what breathing does, mindfulness and also the understanding of what's happening in that takes the fear away and it empowers kids with a better response than part of feeding into the anxiety because anxiety so convincing and so persuasive. So basically that's what the book's about and it goes through the symptoms. Because kids want to understand what's happening in their bodies, they're really good at understanding the science of it when it's explained and they're really good at doing good stuff with it. So that's what the book does is give them that information that they need.

Debbie: That's fantastic. Well congratulations on the book and thanks for explaining it to us. I couldn't agree more. I'm a big fan of bringing kids into the process and I do also believe that they want to know what's going on and they're really, you know, because they're curious and kids are kind of natural learners so it's easy to engage them on that level, but when you can understand what's happening, it does take away some of the fear and it's also respectful to explain these concepts to kids and know that they can understand it. You know, they, it can help them make sense of the word.

Karen: One of the ways I describe it as if you were driving down the freeway and it feels like the brakes are going to fail. So we pull over and call the mechanic and we say something doesn't feel right. I feel like my brakes are going to fail. And the mechanic takes a look and say, no, there's nothing wrong. You'll be fine. Don't worry. Just keep going. There's nothing wrong with your car. So we keep going and then it happens again. And the brakes feel like they're going to fail and you're doing 100 down the freeway. And so we pull over again and the mechanic comes and says, no, nothing wrong with you. There's nothing wrong, there's nothing to worry about, don't worry about it. Keep going. But then we go again and it's that horrible feeling. If the brakes going are going to fail and we're spinning out of control or going to spin out of control, then we pull over and then someone stops and says, I see what's going on here. This is why it feels like your brakes are going to fail because your car's doing this, this, this, this, this. It's OK, it's not going to the reason it's happening because of all of these reasons, not because your brakes are going to fail, but I understand it feels like your brakes are going to fail, but that's just how it feels. It's not going to happen because it's actually happening because of this reason. And so understanding where it comes from can be really healing and really soothing and comforting. And once that happens, then they can feel strong enough and powerful enough to put in place a strategy they need to put in place in that moment,

Debbie: I love that analogy of driving down the street without being worried the brakes are going to fail. I think that also brings up what I wanted to ask you about the idea of just a lot of misunderstanding about anxiety. People don't think it exists or especially in kids, you know, I've talked to some parents for the show who's kids struggle with anxiety and they've talked about just the misunderstanding from educators from other parents who think that they might be being

over-protective of their kids and I'm wondering what's your experience been with that and what is it like in Australia, you know, we're talking to you when you're in Australia. I'm curious what the culture is around anxiety there.

Karen: It's interesting. We are starting to open up to it and starting to realize that it's just another part. It's something that can happen to kids and it doesn't mean they're broken, but it's interesting. I was speaking to a mom the other day and her daughter goes to one of the really good schools here in Brisbane and her daughter has anxiety. Really Bright, really brave, really strong, gorgeous girl, really well liked, but she has anxiety and the school really did speak about it in a way that weakened her and you know, I said to her mom don't. It's not a pathology. It's not a breakage. It's something that happens and this is why it happens. It's because her brains over, it's not broken so there is still some misunderstanding I suppose around what it is and I suppose one of the things I want to push against the idea that anxious people - that they're not brave enough or not strong enough because anxious people will be some of the bravest people you'll meet and some of the strongest people you'll meet because they push through this stuff all the time, but it is a real thing and it is a, is the wiring in the brain triggers anxiety more often than other people. It's not a bad thing because it can also mean it feels bad, but it can also mean that they're really great planners that I can think of things that no one else has thought of. They are really great at predicting trouble and if you want to understand what's happening in a classroom or in a social group, ask the one who feels anxious sometimes because they know what's going on because they think it is and they know they can put the pieces together so well and emotionally intelligent and socially intelligent are really amazing. It is a physiological thing that's got nothing to do with character and it's got nothing to do with personality. So I think we're slowly opening up to this and saying, well that's okay. You know, it's just a different way of being human and it's not breakage, but there's still a way to go and it's very common. It's so common and I think that's one of the things we're starting to realize is how common it is now, which surprised me and I think it surprises a lot of people.

Debbie: When Asher was in school, when he was in, must've been first or second grade. His one of the therapists he was seeing pulled me aside after they had met and made a comment about a change we were going to make and he said, yeah, I think that's really going to help with his anxiety, and I said, he has anxiety? I had no idea. He's differently wired in other ways and I didn't connect that a lot of what was causing his dysregulation at school was an anxious response to what was happening and it was kind of like a light bulb moment for me at the time. I'm wondering if you have some thoughts about what parents can be looking out for in their kids. If they're thinking maybe they're listening to this and it's never occurred to them before. What would be some signs that they might want to be aware of?

Karen: I look at things a lot of avoidance behavior and that might be connected to a particular thing, so I don't feel like going to school today and it might be I've got a tummy ache or I've got a headache or something like that and it's not. That's not doing it to be naughty. Not at all, it's because their brain is telling them they

can't go look at things like tummy aches that don't have a physical basis, headaches that don't have another physical basis. Nausea, I feel sick in the tummy because they, they're all the physical symptoms that come with that surging of neurochemicals. Often kids with anxiety will be, there'll be a lot of what ifs. So mom, what if you're late to pick me up? What if I go to the party and no one wants to talk to me? What if something happens to you on the way home?

So there's a lot of what ifs and there's a lot of, you know, they'll want to talk about this sometimes and that's their brain thinking ahead. Anxiety happens. Anxieties is a brain that lives a little bit too much in the future or a lot in the future. Thinking about the what ifs. So look at the physical symptoms. Look for the kids who will ask about the what ifs. Now sometimes they can be the light of the party, that might be the class clown. And that's another way to, um, that can mask anxiety. And another thing is to watch for really aggressive outbursts or meltdowns or tantrums. Now the Amygdala, which is the one that kickstarts the anxious response also is in charge of emotion. So when it's at high volume, when it's anxious, other emotions will be at high volume too. So these might be the kids who just get really aggressive and it doesn't seem like there's much of a trigger or the kids who just want to burst into tears.

What that is, that's the Amygdala driving that. And that's happening with anxiety. So if you control the anxiety, your control, that response. These kids who are doing that, they're not being aggressive because their social skills are poor or because they're being, they're bad kids. It's absolutely not that at all. They're anxious kids, but it doesn't look like it. Aggression can, can mask that. So that's some of the things to worry about. Kids who you know, they might be worried about going to sleep at night or they might wake up a lot during the night thinking about stuff, that sort of thing. So it's different than stress, stress is when there is a, a real thing, so keeps you get stressed at exam time because they do really have a heavy workload that stress that's different to anxiety, which is what if I fail, what if I do really poorly and I'm not able to do anything when I leave school because I'm no good at anything. What if I make a mistake? And that's the difference between stress and anxiety.

Debbie: That's a really helpful distinction. Thank you. So before we go, I know your whole site provides lots of insight and of course your book. If parents are listening to this and they're recognizing, wow, I think this is what's going on, what would you suggest? The first thing they do is to support their child?

Karen: So there's a couple of things. The first thing is explain to them kids have to understand what anxiety is and they don't, parents don't need to buy the book. There's an article on my site called Anxiety and Kids How to Turn it Around. That was the original article. So that will give you the words to give them about where anxiety comes from, what the physical symptoms mean, so they can understand why they feel the way they do. That's the most, that's the most important thing and that's where I see the change happening. Then the next thing I would do is start with a regular practice of mindfulness because what we know from tons and tons of research is that mindfulness changes the structure

and function of the brain, so it actually calms down activity in the Amygdala increases activity in the prefrontal cortex, which is the part of the brain that can actually calm the Amygdala and calm big emotion and think logically, and it also strengthens the connections between the two, so the brain needs to work well separately, but it also needs to work well together.

So when the prefrontal cortex and the Amygdala connected, that's when it's going to be easier to take charge of that anxious response before it becomes something that feels really awful. Mindfulness is amazing. There are apps that can help kids with mindfulness. I've got articles on the site about how to do mindfulness with kids. That's really just a form of meditation, but brains need to be still. Bodies need to move, so exercise is the other. We know exercise increases the neurochemicals that helped to calm the neurons in the brain that can feed into anxiety. So exercise is so important for mental health. So that's another one. I'm so explain what it is. Mindfulness and exercise would be the big three.

- Debbie: Awesome. Thank you for sharing that. And I have to ask, are you familiar with the app Headspace?
- Karen: Yep. That's a really great one. There's another one that I talk about a lot, which is Smiling Mind. That's another one is that there's actually a lot of really great apps out there. It's, it's really a matter of which one the kids feel works for them, but I liked the idea of the app because it's a guided meditation, so I think mindfulness can be really hard, especially if you've got a racing mind can be really hard to distill that mind.
- Debbie: Yeah, absolutely. Yeah. Just go be quiet for 10 minutes, or I mentioned headspace because I just read that they've come out with a kids version of it, so I'm, I'm anxious for us to try that out as well. But listeners, I'll include links to these on the show notes page if you want to check them out and I'll also include links to the article that Karen mentioned to Karen's book and of course Hey Sigmund, but are there any other places on social media that people can connect with you?
- Karen: I'm on facebook and facebook groups where I share all my posts, so facebook, if you just look up, Hey Sigmund, that'll pop me up and I'm also on instagram and twitter, but mostly facebook is for the articles. I feed through the articles and I feed through other things as well.
- Debbie: Great. Okay, so I will share all those links, lots of ways to connect and follow the work that Karen's doing. And Karen, I just want to thank you. This has been such an insightful conversation for me and this is a topic I've been really wanting to bring more to the podcast, so I so appreciate you sharing your insight on anxiety and your wisdom and the great work that you're doing, so thank you so much.
- Karen: Thank. Keep for having me. I'm really grateful for the opportunity to talk about it and get this conversation moving when we talk about it, that the stigma and

the pathology or the tendency to pathologize starts to fade away. So I'm really grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to do that. So thank you.

Debbie:

You've been listening to the TiLT Parenting Podcast for the show notes for this episode, including links to Karen's website, Hey Sigmund, her new books for children with anxiety, Hey Warrior and the other things we discussed visit [tiltparenting.com/session84](http://tiltparenting.com/session84). And don't forget to check out my after the show short video where I share my top takeaways from my conversation with Karen. You'll find a link on the show notes page or you can go straight to [tiltparenting.com/aftertheshow](http://tiltparenting.com/aftertheshow) and a quick invitation to try our free Differently Wired seven day challenge if you haven't gone through it yet, when you sign up, I'll email you a short inspirational video each day for a week with a tip you can incorporate into your life right away. You'll also be invited to join a private facebook group for people who have gone through or are doing the challenge. More than 800 people have gone through it so far. It's free, it's ongoing, and it's designed to help you find more peace and confidence in your parenting journey today. To Join, visit [tiltparenting.com/sevenday](http://tiltparenting.com/sevenday). If you like what you heard on today's episode, consider subscribing or leaving a review in itunes. Both those things help our podcast get noticed in the crowded podcast space. Thanks again for listening. For more information on parenting, visit [www.tiltparenting.com](http://www.tiltparenting.com)

**RESOURCES MENTIONED:**

- [Hey Sigmund](#) (Karen's website)
- [Hey Warrior](#), a book for kids with anxiety to find their "brave" by Karen Young
- [The University of Washington Autism Center](#)
- [Headspace mindfulness app](#)
- [Smiling Mind mindfulness app](#)
- [Hey Sigmund on Facebook](#)
- [Anxiety in Kids: How to Turn it Around and Protect Them for Life](#)  
(original viral article on Hey Sigmund)