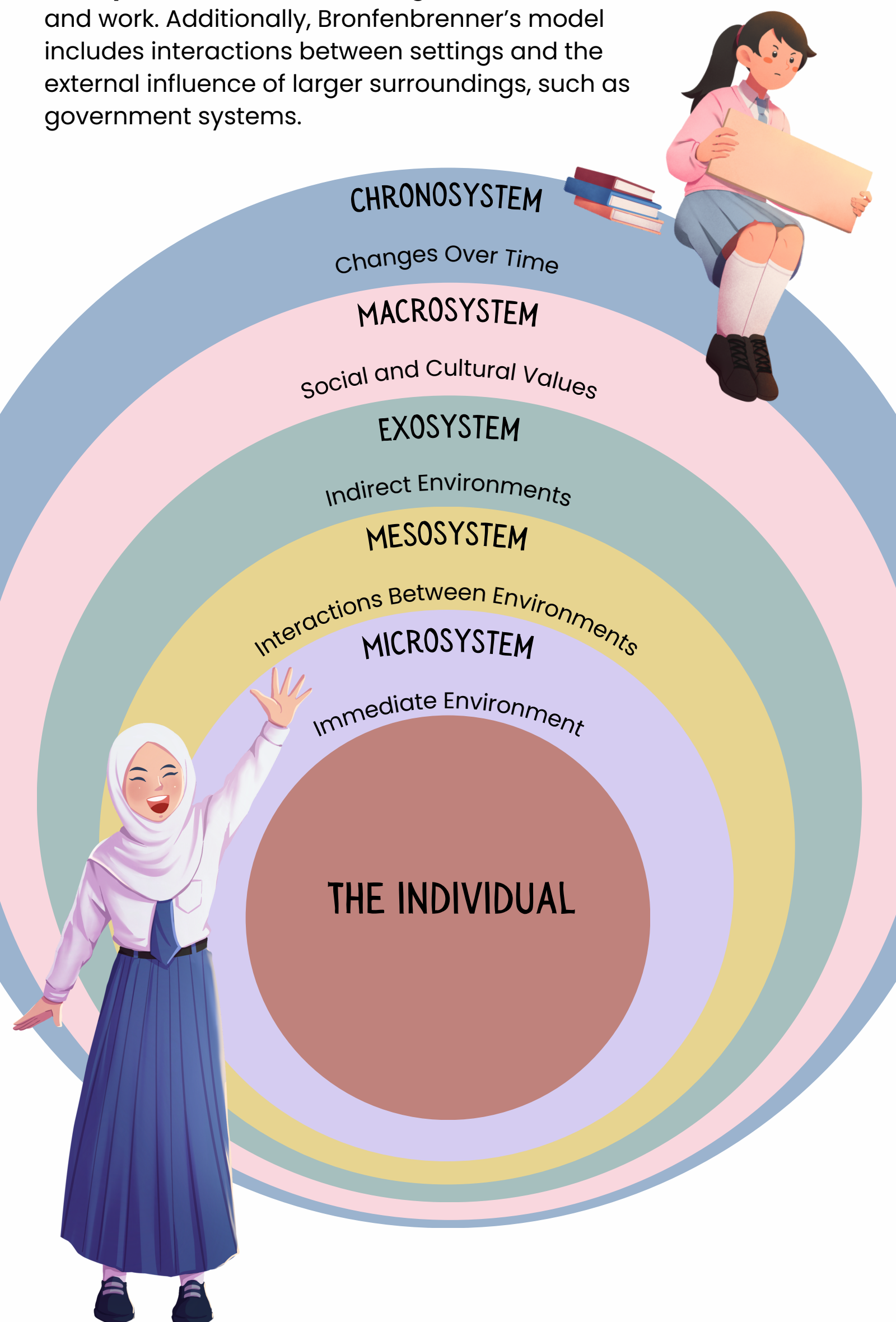


THE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS THEORY

Urie Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory analyzes how human development is impacted by the ever-changing environments in which they live (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).

Examples of immediate settings include school, home and work. Additionally, Bronfenbrenner's model includes interactions between settings and the external influence of larger surroundings, such as government systems.



Bronfenbrenner, U. (1979). *The Ecology of Human Development: Experiments by Nature and Design*. (pp. 21-26). Harvard University and Press.

HOW TO IMPROVE NEURODIVERGENT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ACCOMMODATIONS USING THE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS MODEL

CHRONOSYSTEM

Create programs to teach neurodivergent students how to find support after graduation.

Many students avoid accommodations in university because they fear losing support later. This eases the impact of life changes on their ability to get help.



MACROSYSTEM

Train university staff to understand the needs of neurodivergent students and their accommodations.

This helps staff provide better support by making them aware of how their own values and attitudes may impact their approach.

EXOSYSTEM

Create programs to help students obtain the necessary diagnoses to access accommodations.

Many institutions require a formal diagnosis, and some students struggle to get the support they need because they have difficulty obtaining one.



MESOSYSTEM

Create programs where students can learn about accommodations that have worked for others.

Many students are interested in what has helped their peers. This program can also help students connect their peer support to their academic success.



MICROSYSTEM

Make it simpler for students to access and manage accommodations at school.

Using multiple platforms to request and track accommodations can be confusing, especially for neurodivergent students.

