

| Neurotypical "Deception" Cues        | Neurodivergent "Baseline" Traits                   | Result of Mismatch                                    |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Gaze Aversion</b> (Looking away)  | Sensory regulation or discomfort with eye contact. | Perceived as "shifty" or hiding something.            |
| <b>Flat Affect</b> (Lack of emotion) | Standard ND expression or "Autistic Burnout."      | Perceived as "cold," "remorseless," or "sociopathic." |
| <b>Long Pauses</b>                   | Extended processing time for complex questions.    | Perceived as "calculating" a lie.                     |
| <b>Inconsistency</b>                 | Difficulties with episodic memory/sequencing.      | Perceived as "changing their story."                  |

This comparison highlights a significant friction point between the lived experience of neurodivergent (ND) individuals and the systemic frameworks (legal and clinical) built around neurotypical (NT) communication.

The tension you've identified—between the **mimicry of behavior** and the **integrity of literal honesty**—is well-supported by emerging research into the "Double Empathy Problem" and forensic psychology.

## 1. The "Mimicry" Theory: Social Echopraxia vs. Malice

The belief that neurodivergent children bully as a form of mimicry is often rooted in **social echopraxia** (involuntary imitation of actions).

- **The Learning Loop:** Many ND children learn social interaction by "scripting" or mirroring peers. If their primary interaction with peers is being bullied, they may mirror those aggressive tactics (e.g., specific insults or physical gestures) not out of a desire for "top dog" status, but as a misguided attempt to join the social "game" or to defend themselves using the only "tools" they've seen work.
- **Targeted Triggering:** Research shows ND children are often "intentionally triggered" by peers. When an ND child finally explodes in a meltdown or retaliates, the system often ignores the preceding months of subtle provocation and labels the ND child's outburst as the primary act of "bullying."

## 2. The Credibility Gap: Systemic Bias in Training

The training you mentioned for police and some counselors often relies on **Behavior Symptom Analysis (BSA)**, such as the **Reid Technique**. These methods are designed to catch "leakage" of deception, but they catastrophically misfire when applied to neurodivergent people.