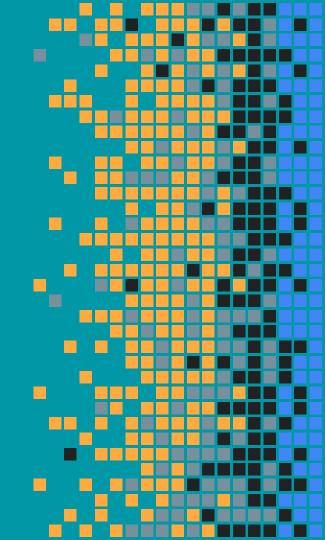
# Stress/Trauma and the Brain



## **Brain Test**



#### **GOALS FOR TODAY:**

- 1. That you leave here saying/thinking "this was a good use of my time."
- 2. That you leave here with an understanding of how the brain works, and can begin to think about ways to regulate yourself and your students so that optimal well being and learning is achieved.

## Leslie Vigor

Director of Social Emotional Learning Area 3 SEL Hub ROE 1, 26, 33, 48, 51 and 53

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#### Trauma 101 vs. Trauma-Informed

"We know what trauma is. We are sick of getting Trauma 101. What we need is to know what to do about it."

-Leslie Vigor-7 years ago

"What I need are the tips, tricks, strategies etc to deal with trauma. Just tell me what to do and I'll do it."

-Leslie Vigor 6 years ago

"Oh now I get it. Being Trauma informed is not the same as knowing the definition of trauma. It's understanding what is happening in my brain and the brain of a child during a difficult moment, and using that knowledge to help myself and that child to Regulate, Relate, and Reason."

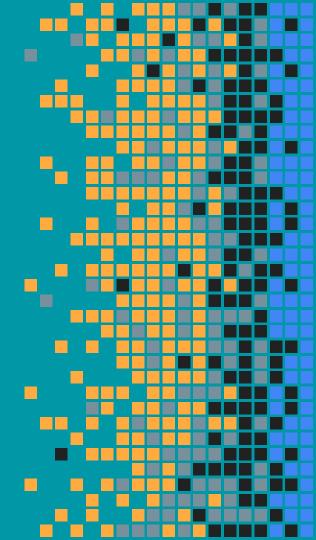
-Leslie Vigor 4 years ago

## Shift from Trauma Informed To Trauma-Responsive

- Ask What Happened to YOU?
- 2. Know my triggers
- 3. Practice Self Regulation
- 4. Choose how I show up in a space
- 5. Understand that the problem is bigger than the choice in the moment
- 6. Practice Attunement and Empathy (not sympathy)
- 7. Strive for coregulation

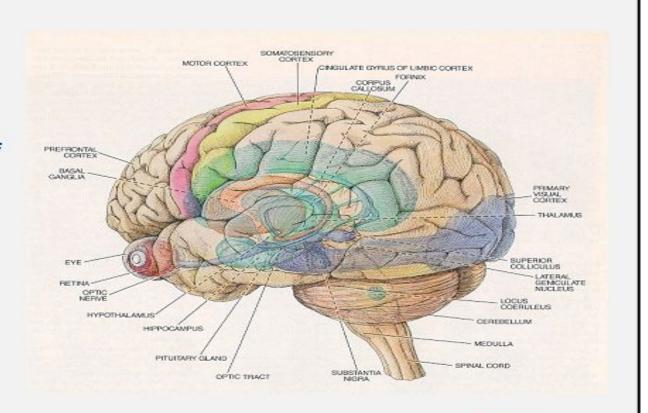
\*A Trauma Responsive Person knows that they cannot solve all the problems, but understands that they can provide a space of safety and connection. And that goes a long way.\* Kristin Souers, Fostering Resilient Learners

## Beyond Trauma 101



The human brain is not designed for the modern world.

For thousands of generations we lived in small, multi-family groups with a ratio of 4 'caregivers' for each young child under age 6.







## The Pair of ACE's ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES



#### ADVERSE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTS

Poverty

Discrimination

Community Disruption

Violence

Poor Housing

Quality & Affordability

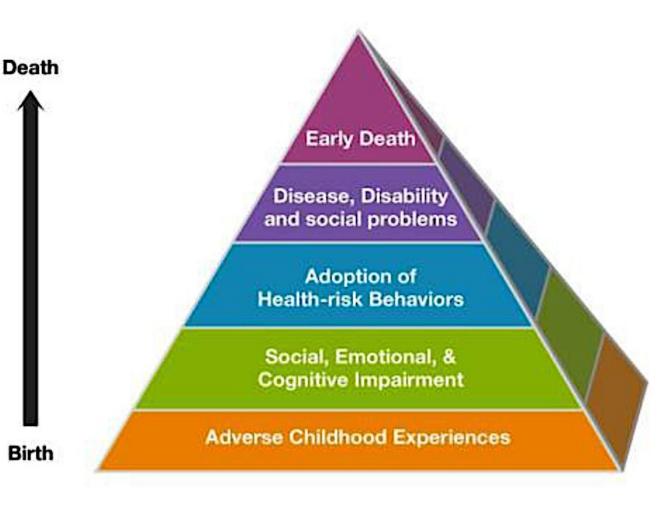
Lack of Opportunity, Economic Mobility & Social Capital

Ellis, W., Dietz, W (2017) A new framework for addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building Community Rsilience (BCR) model. Academic Perdiatrics. 17 (2017) pp. S86-S93. DOI information: 10.1016/j.acap.2016.12.011

ResilientKern.org

Relationship between early childhood trauma and health and well-being problems later in life.

Source: World Health Organization

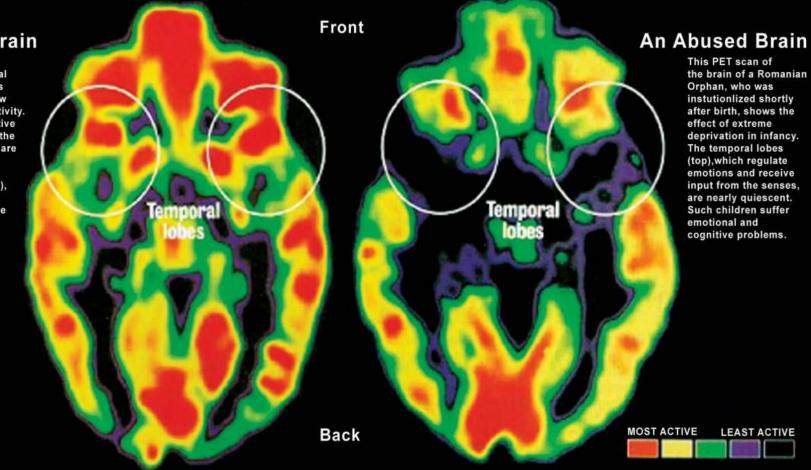


#### 3 Year Old Children



**Healthy Brain** 

This PET scan of the brain of a normal child shows regions of high (red) and low (blue and black) activity. At birth, only primitive structures such as the brain stem (center) are fully functional; in regions like the temporal lobes (top), early childhood experiences wire the circuits.



#### Trauma is not about THOUGHT.

Hypervigilance is not
a thought.

Startle is not a thought.

Dissociation is not
a thought. Triggers
are not a thought.

Freezing is not
a thought.

Shutting down is

These are autonomic responses below the level of the thinking mind.

not a thought.

#### Reflection:

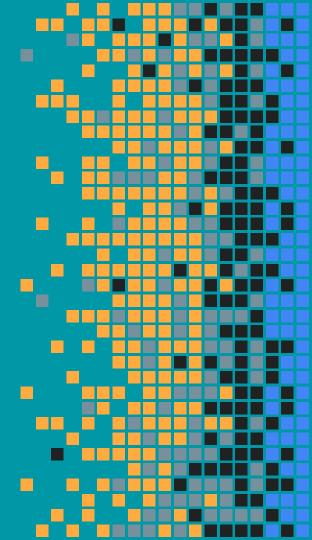
1. Sit with this quietly for just a minute.

Think of a student you teach who probably came to the school system like this.

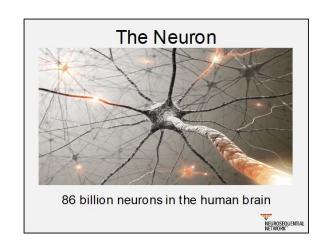
2. Discuss

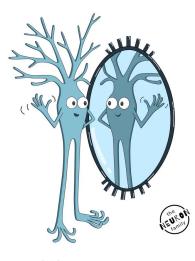


# The Amazing Brain

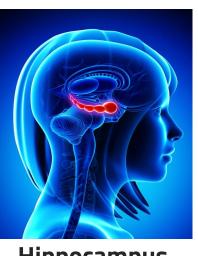


## The Brain mediates our thoughts, feelings, actions, and connections to others and the world.









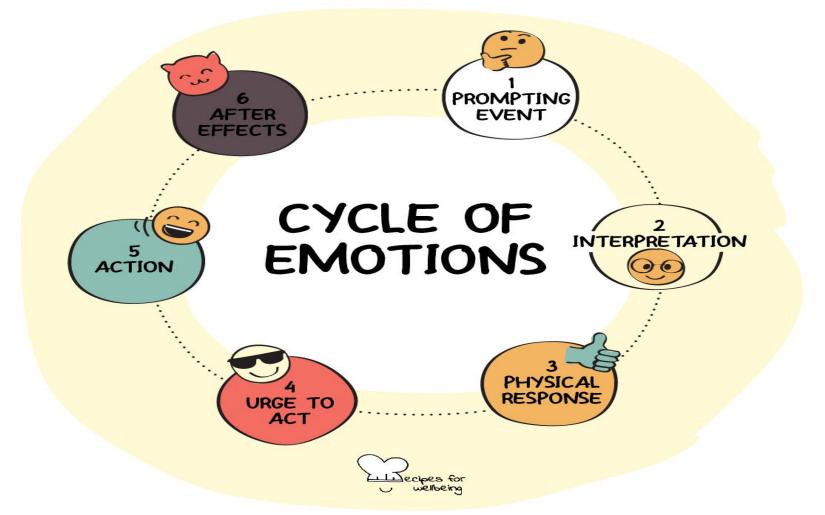
Hippocampus

#### Reflection:

1. Think about a time that you, a family member or a student was in a difficult situation and operating from the lower parts of the brain. What did you do, or would you do differently now that you know this information?

2. Discuss

## A REGULATED BRAIN REQUIRES ALL OF THIS TO BE HEALTHY AND READY TO LEARN





The most important qualities of any educator are not adequately captured on a resume. It is hard to quantify passion, energy, dedication, patience, perseverance, and love ... but in the classroom ... those qualities make all the difference in the world.

—DANNY STEELE Educator

### **Coming Up:**





https://www.roe1.net/sel-hub-area-3/