# IMPACT OF ADVERSITY/TRAUMA ON BRAIN AND BIOLOGY

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#### **OBJECTIVES**

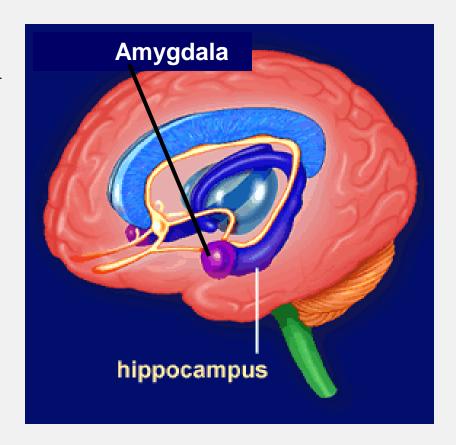
- Learn about brain basics
- Learn about the impact of trauma on the brain & development
- Learn about the brain's response to stress and traumatic experiences
- Understand the nervous system

#### **BRAIN BASICS**

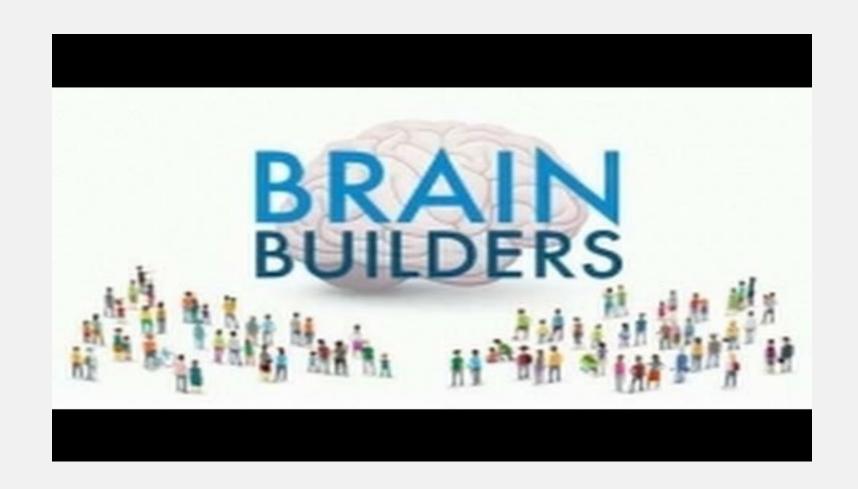
- The Amazing Brain- Page 3: Understanding the Building Blocks of My Brain
  - Linda Burgess Chamberlain, PhD, MPH
- The rest of the booklet can be used as a resource for parents to assist with healthy development.

#### The Limbic Area: Amygdala

- The amygdala is the appraisal system of the brain.
  - Signals rest of nervous system when there is a threat
  - It creates templates from highly charged emotional memories
    - \* Positive memories
    - \* Negative memories



#### HOW BRAINS ARE BUILT



## **ELEPHANT**

## BICYCLE

#### **GARDEN**

## **ALLIGATOR**

#### **AUTOMOBILE**

## RAILROAD



## MOUNTAIN



#### **TELEPHONE**



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#### **SATISFACTORY**



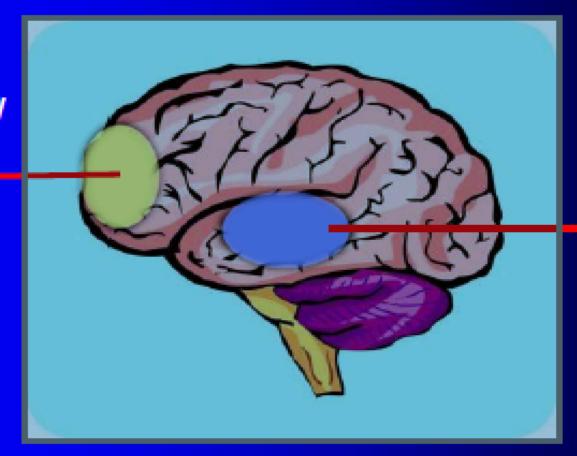
#### **FOUNDATION**



#### Survival Mode: Fight/Flight/Freeze

Frontal lobe (prefrontal cortex) goes offline Limbic system / mid and lower brain functions take over

Learning/
Thinking
Brain
(Prefrontal
Cortex)



Survival/ Emotion Brain (Limbic System)

#### SURVIVAL RESPONSES

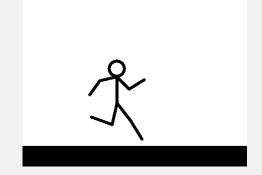
• FIGHT



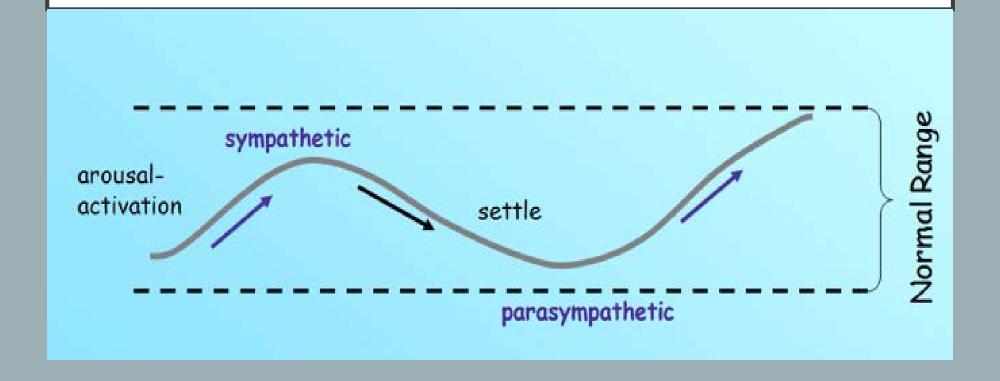
• FLIGHT





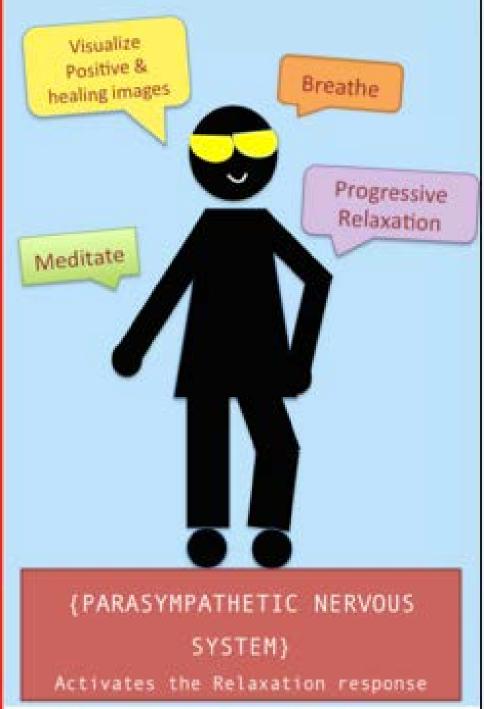


#### THE NERVOUS SYSTEM



From Peter Levine's Somatic Experiencing work and Dan Siegel's concept of the window of tolerance.





# QUESTIONS?