



SMART Learning Pathway

- SMART Online Training 6 hours
- SMART 2 hour training facilitated by a local SMART Trainer
- SMART Day 1 Foundation (includes specialist packages ie Early Years, Refugees, Adolescents, Working with Aboriginal communites)
- SMART Day 2 Strategies (for the above as well)
- SMART Train the Trainer program 3 days
- Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma (24 F:F days, online components available as well in 2020)

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Session outline

- examine brain development in children
- define complex abuse related trauma
- understand the impact of trauma on children's and young people's development and functioning
- develop strategies for working with traumatised children
- discuss whole school or service approaches to supporting traumatised children

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Principles guiding this workshop

- we assume a knowledge of child abuse and state mandatory reporting requirements
- discussion & questions only enhance the session
- abuse related trauma covers the impact of all forms of child abuse, including sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, family violence and neglect.
- your emotional safety is paramount

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Predictable
 Pesponsive
 Attuned
 Connecting
 Translating
 Involving
 Calming
 Engaging

<section-header><text><text><section-header><list-item><list-item><list-item> Safety & relationships are key.... It is important to remember that safety – feeling and being safe and having safe, connected and attuned relationships are key to supporting a child or young person who has experienced trauma. **Discussion of the experience of trausary relationships recorded in the right hemisphere** • the perception of emotion in self and others, enabling empathy and humour. • healing from trauma

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Defining trauma

Any single, ongoing or cumulative experience which:

- is a response to a perceived threat
- overwhelms our capacity to cope
- feels/is outside our control
- evokes a physiological and psychological set of responses based on fear or avoidance

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Developmental trauma

Occurs when the foetus in utero, baby, child or adolescent experiences trauma, from abuse and neglect during these stages of development

 Children and young people are very vulnerable to the effects of trauma because of their brain's developmental immaturity - their brains are malleable, so the impact of trauma is faster to manifest and leaves deeper tracks of damage

Children's development can slow down or be impaired
 often leading to children experiencing splintered development

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Understanding the developing child and the impact of trauma Neurobiology Development An understanding of child development is pivotal in recognising and distinguishing the impact of trauma An understanding of normative brain development gives us a point of comparison for considering the impact of trauma Babies, children & young people who A neurobiological understanding of trauma offers explanations about the way that it affects a child/young person experience developmental delays across a broad spectrum including: Cognitive skills Language skillsMotor skills Social skills Image source: https://unsplash.com Australian
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Trauma impacts

- sleep disturbances and unsettledness
- sucking and swallowing and digestion difficulties
- may feel hot or cold or not notice changes in temperature

What do you notice and what can you do?

<section-header>
 Cerebellum – body and balance centre
 helps us with our posture and balance
 helps us with our coordination and to control our novements
 helps us to know where our body is in space
 helps us with our voluntary movements such as walking and writing

Strategies for transforming – brainstem & cerebellum

- include soothing and calming activities, safe containment
- movement based activities
 - include activities that have a rhythmic, repetitive element
- include activities that have a balancing element & gross & fine motor skills breath based activities
- conduct a sensory audit ie: is it too hot or too cold, too noisy?
- include proprioceptive and interoceptive awareness and activities

Have PREDICTABILITY in every aspect of the school day and curriculum.

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A Rhythmic Classroom model focuses on building a strong, regulated body – ensuring teachers incorporate knowledge of trauma's significant impacts on the body and the body's regulatory abilities

(Perry, 2006)

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A rhythmic classroom or school yard

- bring rhythm in to the classroom activities like drumming, music, physical movement breaks, short exercise bursts
- brain breaks or "Brain kits" for fine and large motor skills cardio activities, or stationary equipment (stationary bikes, treadmills)
- "rhythmic or containing furniture" for regulation rocking chairs, hammocks, swings, beanbags, mats, blankets
- design school routines with a rhythmic sense to the lesson, day, week and year
- · embedding "circle" routines and morning meetings with a sense of rhythm, positive emotion, fun and relational attunement
- integrating heart rate activities and heart rate monitors in both personal and learning development (ie great to include in maths or science lessons)

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Brainstem			
Serebellum			
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The diencephalon under stress and trauma
becomes overwhelmed and cannot sort the information
• is unable to send information to the memory and thinking parts of the brain – that pathway shuts down
 it alerts the amygdala which sets of a sensory information response sequence
What do you notice and what can you do?
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Limbic lobe - emotion and memory centre

- helps us attach an emotion to an experience or memory
- particularly involved with the emotions
- heavily involved in attachment processes
- develops mainly after birth
- two important brain parts the amygdala and the hippocampus are in this part of the brain

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Strategies for transforming – Amygdala – IIMPLICIT MEMORIES

- understand that their behaviour may be triggered/awakened because of an implicit memory
- don't ask questions at this stage the thinking part of the brain will be offline.
- try to determine what might have caused the triggering or awakening (noise, smell, colour).
- stay calm, stay present and with the child or young person. Reassure

Re-entry to the classroom should be a safe and positive transition whenever possible.

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Strategies for transforming – Amygdala - EMOTIONS

- include explicit teaching around emotional literacy
 build emotional regulatory activities in to the day calming, rhythmic, repetitive, breath-based – positive and constructive feedback, celebrating significant events, element of joy, fun and laughter
- provide opportunities to experience and understand emotions in others through safe relationships, role modelling and game playing
- greet your students at the door or at the start of the day/lesson- even if they are late, make them feel included
- take time to know your students, understand their background and acknowledge their learning needs and successes.

(Golding, et al. , 2016)

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Diencephalon			
Amygdala			
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The hippocampus under stress and trauma

- doesn't function properly it feels as if the trauma hasn't ended.
- reduction of hippocampal volume up to 25% as a result of high levels of cortisol
- working memory, retention and recall (retrieval) capacity is severely impacted

What do you notice and what can you do?

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Strategies for transforming – hippocampus – EXPLICIT MEMORIES

- provide lots of opportunities for review of what has been taught
- have visual timetables and lots of reminders around the room
- reinforce, remind and practice expectations for entering classrooms and routines for classroom learning. Scaffolds like morning routines, timetables, what's on today, books to be out this morning etc.

- use of diaries or other reminder tools for high school aged students
- use of sticky notes, colour codes etc to assist
- allow extra time for activities
- break down tasks to be more manageable

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Brain Area		Key Principles for development & healing	
Hippocampus			
Cortex			
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Strategies for transforming – cortical areas

- problem solving activities break down the problem in to "bite size", achievable goals
- mapping and planning out the activity or options
- games card games boards games strategy games
- voluntary movement activities/complex patterns table top drumming, clapping etc
- thinking and choice games "Would you rather?"
- identity and life story work help them build a picture of their life

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Strategies for transforming - cortical area things to consider in the classroom

- include lots of problem solving activities break down the problem in to "bite size", achievable goals
- assist students by mapping and planning out the activity or options
 involve students in playing games card games boards games strategy games provide opportunities for voluntary movement activities/complex patterns – table top drumming, clapping etc
- allowing choice through decision making and playing thinking and choice games "Would you rather?"
- build student involvement in the decision-making about a range of school projects/issues and to co-design their learning.
- involve students in democratic processes and student voice by providing regular opportunities and teaching the skills required to be effective e.g. negotiation, meeting skills, planning, formative assessment and feedback.
- help build their sense of identity through life story work activities help them build a picture of their life can the students each keep a notebook or scrap book of things they have done that year?

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Strategies for transforming – using the medial pre-frontal cortex and the right-orbitofrontal cortex

- mindfulness activities engages the medial prefrontal cortex and the right orbito- frontal cortex
- any activities that build on focussing attention, use the working memory, social cognition, attuned communication, involved selfregulation (mirror games), impulse control, and judgement and reasoning.
- involve children/young people in physical activities that include movement and build in stillness

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Prefrontal Cortex			
Medial Prefrontal Cortex			
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Age	Brain function focus	Brain food
2-25 years	Abstract thinking, decision making, analysing and problem	Opportunities to practise making decisions, to weigh up consequences, to take risks in non life and death settings, to learn boundaries.
		Integrative activities such as outdoor adventures, ropes courses, group work, yoga, meditation, mindfulness.
	Consolidation and Exploration	Problem processing opportunities to concentrate on areas of interest, to challenge and be supported, games requiring skill, strength and agility, experiences of raised and lowered heart rate.
	Maturing thinking functions	Reading, playing games, counting, talking, storytelling, games with siblings and in teams
- 4 years	Emotional functions	Playing games with parents, dress ups, acting stories, act out feelings, sharing, taking turns, dress ups
6 months – 2 rears	Coordination of body movements	Dancing, painting, blocks, threading, sliding, crawling, rolling, running, clapping
n utero – 9 nonths	Basic Survival	Tactile play, peek a boo, lots of touch, being rocked

Brain area	Function	Activity ideas
Brainstem & Diencephalon	Basic survival & sensory processing	Pacification or stimulation. Activities in the child's preferred sensory modality
Cerebellum	Coordination of movement	Using music, rhyme and movement activities
Limbic	Emotional processing	Building relational connection through plays, animals, games
Cortex	Thinking processes	Linking experiences and sensations to words and descriptions
Prefrontal cortex	Analytical and abstract thinking	Challenges and safe risk taking activities
	Image source	e: ©2018 ACF

Lateral integration – Left and right hemispheres working together

- hemispheric specialisation means that LH and RH need to work together to achieve optimal adaptive states.
- knowing a feeling and giving that feeling a language occur through the integrative capacity of the two hemispheres.
- tuning into, understanding and responding to social cues in communication occur through the integrative capacity of the two hemispheres.

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Hemispheres under stress and trauma

- will struggle to process the content of our words (left hemisphere Wernicke's area)
- may not be able to speak & will be acutely aware of our facial expressions, posture, gestures, intensity of movements and eye contact and searching for signs of disapproval, rejection & danger (left hemisphere - Broca's area)
- will be tuned into the tone of voice, not the content (right hemisphere)
- difficulties with understanding and knowing feelings and articulating them
- difficulties with tuning into, understanding and responding to social cues in communication

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Strategies for transforming – RH and LH

Building RH

- using attunement and relationally based activities to build connection eg: mutual smiling, mirroring games based on facial expressions, voice copying
- modelling appropriate gestures and proximity

Building LH

- incorporating cognitive processes into calming or stimulating activities eg: counting for relaxation
- providing opportunities to use language and logic through game playing, discussion and decision making

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Strategies for transforming – building RH/LH connection

Emotionally

Physically

 Attunement and noticing how a child/young person feels, says and shows in the body and giving language – "I notice that you are/have...(tears in your eyes, are yawning lots, are shivering...and I wonder if you are feeling....(sad, tired, scared....)

 Doing any activity that enables you to cross the imaginery "midline" of the body eg: cups games, hokey pokey, clapping chants, mirroring games, playing musical instruments, physical activity/sports

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Left Hemisphere /Right Hemisphere			
Vagus Nerve			
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Behavioural Functions	Body Functions
Social Engagement	* Lowers or raises vocalization pitch
Soothing and calming	* Changes facial expressivity
	* Head turning
Indicates safety	* Tears and eyelids
	* Slows or speeds heart rate
Mobilization	Hyper arousal
	* Increases heart rate
Fight or Flight	* Sweat increases
Active Freeze	* Inhibits gastrointestinal function
· · · · · · · · · ·	 Narrowing blood vessels- to slow blood flow to extremities
Moderate to extreme danger	* Release of adrenaline
Immobilization	Hypoarousal
Collapse or submission/Death feigning	* Slows heart rate
Increased pain threshold	* Constricts bronchi
Life threatening situations	* Stimulates gastrointestinal function
Image source	e: 82018 ACF

_eft Hemisphere Right Hemisphere			
/agus Nerve			
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Using the SMART PRACTICE Framework tool
 Predictable
 Responsive
 Attuned
 Connecting
 Translating
 Involving
 Calming
 Engaging

Summary

Trauma has impaired children's cortical capacity to regulate subcortical functioning. In order to return cortical capacity (which is essential for learning) we must restore calm.

- Be predictable
- Be connected
- Be present
- Promote understanding
- Equip the child with calming and engaging strategies they can use and help co-regulate

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Keeping in touch with ACF & SMART

- SMART Online training
- SMART training
- Discussion papers
- Making Space For Learning resources
- https://professionals.childhood.org.au/smart-online-training
- Prosody Blog <u>http://www.childhoodtrauma.org.au/</u>
- Calendar Training https://professionals.childhood.org.au/trainingdevelopment/course-list/

www.childhood.org.au

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