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Learning outcomes

- Extend your knowledge of brain development to understand the neurobiology of emotional reactions; clear thinking and responses which connect to higher-order functions such as sensory perception, spatial reasoning and cognition.
- Understanding the neurobiology of behaviour, connection and engagement
- How to build and create change through clear cognition and built relationships
- Understand how our own neurobiology drives our leadership behaviours and others responses to us and how to utilise reward system through neurobiology
- Learn and discuss what is important in your role as leader.

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Neuroscience and leadership

"When you understand neuroscience as your core leadership foundation, you can continue to come back to that, as a way of connecting everything together.



David Rock CEO Neuroleadership Institut

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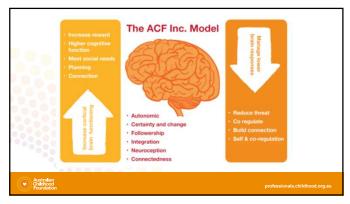
Positive Leader Role

- Leaders set the tone for their organisation or team, and their behaviour determines whether interactions are characterised by positive or negative emotions.
- The bosses' mood has an even greater impact. The Hay Group has shown that up to 70% of the climate in a team is determined by the leader.
- A leader who is aware of their emotional impact and displays a positive rather than a negative mood significantly enhances teamwork, coordination and effort.
- At its heart leadership is about someone stepping up to drive change, in order to produce satisfying outcomes.

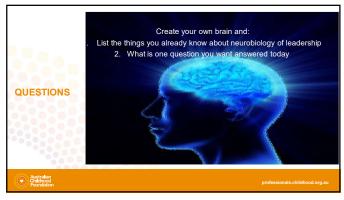


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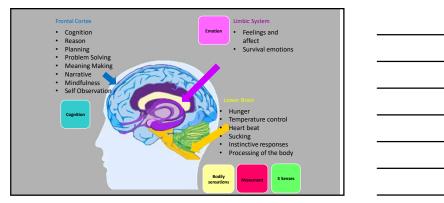


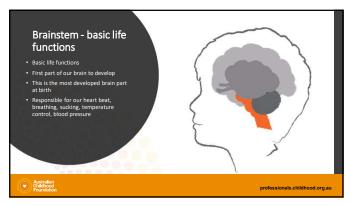


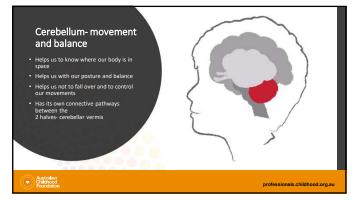






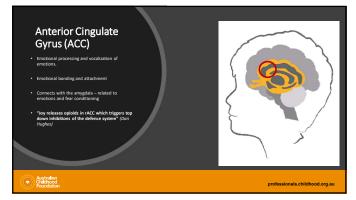


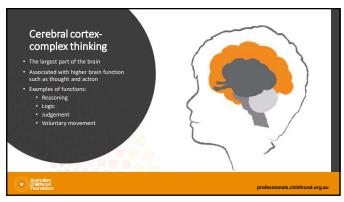


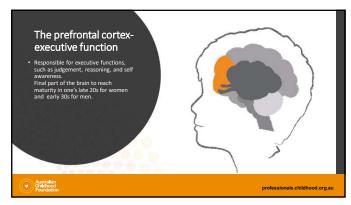


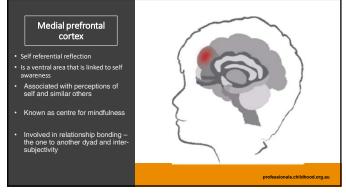


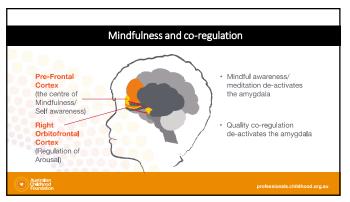


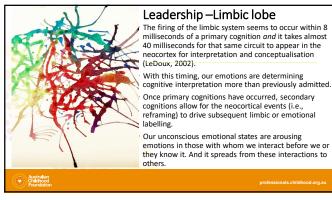




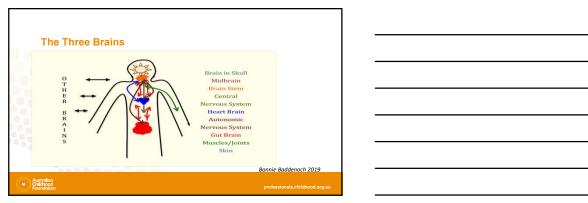




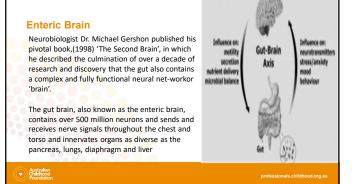








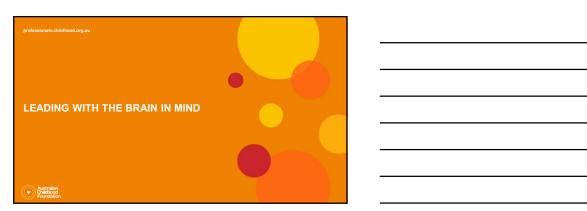
Three brains of leadership- Heart Dr. J. Andrew Armour introduced the concept of a functional brain in the heart. His work revealed that the heart has a complex intrinsic neural network sufficiently sophisticated to qualify as a 'brain' in its own right. The heart's neural network meets all the criteria specified for a brain including several types of neurons, motor neurons, sensory neurons, interneurons, neurotransmitters, proteins and support cells. Its complex and elaborate neural circuitry allows the heart brain to function independently of the head brain and it can learn, remember, feel and sense.







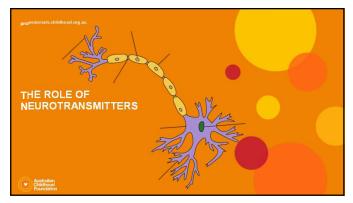


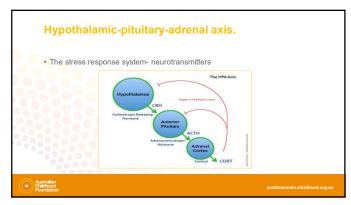


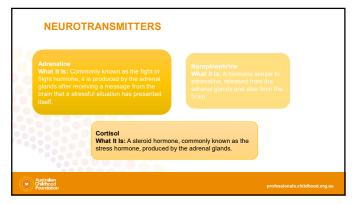
Leadership through neurobiology Understanding how the human brain works and how we function at our best is both fascinating and critical if we want to continue to grow and improve as leaders. "The brain is a far more open system than we ever imagined, and nature...has given us a brain that survives in a changing world by changing itself." Norman Doidge

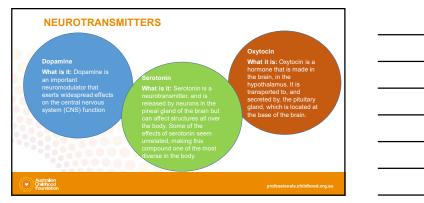
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LEADING WITH THE BRAIN IN MIND The brain is, first and foremost, a survival tool and its found responding to threat and reward to be effective at guaranteeing survival. Put simply, Your brain and your team members' brain work to move away from threats and move toward rewards. This autonomic response occurs through the amygdala. When a threat response is activated, it has a severely negative impact on our cognitive performance. When the limbic system goes into its automated response, fewer resources (oxygen and glucose in particular) become available to the prefrontal cortex— the part of the brain where conscious thought takes place. Threat—impact of Coronavirus









TASTES LIKE CHOCOLATE



- When fully engaged, there is an activation of reward and self-regulation circuitry. Dopamine is released directly into the prefrontal cortex and associated regions. This positively affects a wide range of cognitive and emotional functions by increasing brain resources and functional connectivity. When this system is activated, we receive feedback that the activity is good, rewarding and enjoyable.
- By further pursuing these activities, the mechanisms reinforce the pleasure of activity by releasing even more dopamine.
- In this reward state, we experience increased cognitive resources, a wider field of perceptual view and solve complex problems with insight and creativity and more actionable ideas.
- Australian Childhood Foundation

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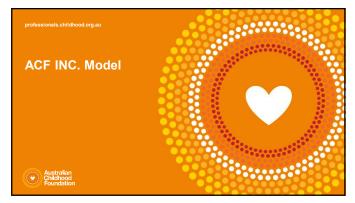
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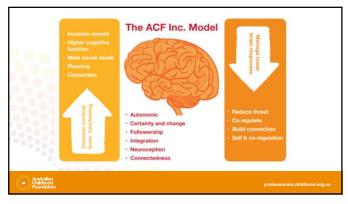
SMELLS LIKE FEAR

- Disengagement activates the threat circuitry. It includes anything that is an 'avoid' response, including fear, anxiety, lack of safety and depression.
- In this threat state, serotonin is released into neural pathways that activate the hypothalamus, triggering the fight or flight response. Adrenaline commonly known as the fight or flight hormone Followed by cortisol a steroid hormone, commonly known as the stress hormone is produced by the adrenal glands.
- Activation of threat circuitry has a profound effect on engagement and directs large amounts of brain resources to peripheral regions, and <u>decreases the</u> efficiency of attention that reduces working memory, narrows field of view and offers a generally pessimistic attitude.
- Childhood Foundation

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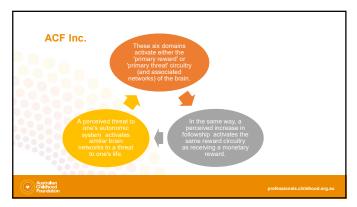




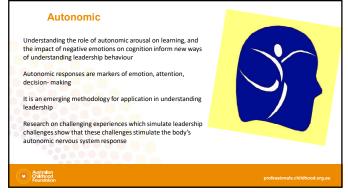
The ACF Inc. model is designed to help us to understand the neuroscience of leadership. The model identifies six key fundamental areas of the neurobiology of leadership Tocusing on leadership alone is like trying to understand clapping by studying only the left hand." The model explores the neuroscience of interpresonal primary rewards or threats that are important to the brain and how this can be used for collaborating with and influencing people.

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The ACF Inc. model involves six domains of human social experience related to integration of brain and body; 1. Autonomic: provides an understanding of stress/fight/flight responses. 2. Certainty and change: feeling safe and being able to see the future 3. Followship: the other side of leadership the ability to take direction well, to be part of a team and to deliver on what is expected of you 4. Integration: It is a flowing interconnection that enables action, change, flexibility and growth 5. Neuroception- stimulus that has the potential for increasing a person's experience/sense of safety that recruits the more advanced neural circuits that support prosocial behaviors in a social engagement system. 6. Connectedness is a sense of safety with others - relationships.



ACF Inc. The model is a summary of important discoveries from neuroscience about the way people interact socially. The model is built around the three parts of the brain and the associated stateof the brain and responses: 1. The capacity of the thinking/cognitive (Neocortex) brain to be able to make decisions, solve problems and collaborate with others is reduced by a threat response and increased under a reward response (Elliot, 2008). 2. The threat response is intense and frequent impacting on emotions and memory of perceived certainty/safety (Midbrain) across social interactions (Porges.S.W Phd. 2009). 3. The survival (reptilian) brain responds to social threats and rewards with the same intensity as physical threats and rewards (Lieberman, & Eisenberger, 2009).



Autonomic A stressful situation — whether something environmental, such as a looming work deadline, or psychological, such as persistent worry about losing a job — can trigger a cascade of stress hormones that produce well-orchestrated physiological changes. A stressful incident can make the heart pound and breathing quicken. Muscles tense and beads of sweat appear

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Autonomic

Schore (2002) notes that for adults, in non-traumatic circumstances, "higher cortical areas" act as "control centers," therefore top-down processing enables us to:

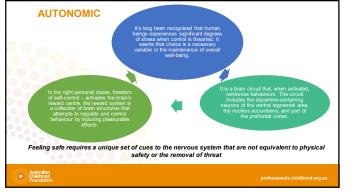
- outline plans,
- determine what to accomplish for the day,
- structure time to meet particular goals.

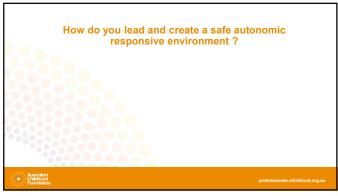
Emotions and sensations, such as feelings of frustration, fatigue, or physical discomfort, are overridden by the cortex in order to accomplish these priorities.

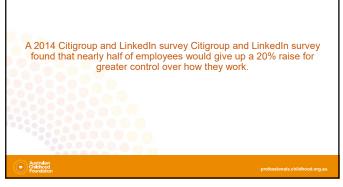
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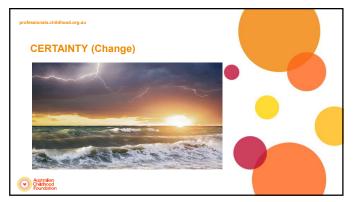
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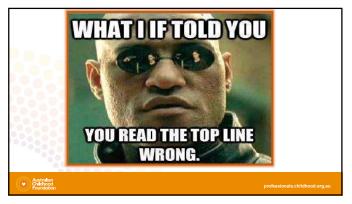
CERTAINTY

- The brain craves certainty .
- Certainty is, neurologically speaking, its own reward. When people are uncertain the brain locks into basic survival mode and uses more energy to understand the situation.
- Uncertainty decreases activation in reward circuits, increasing it in threat neural circuitry. There is a spectrum to certainty and uncertainty, and the brain will react accordingly.
- A sense of uncertainty about the future generates a strong threat or 'alert' response in your limbic system.

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CERTAINTY

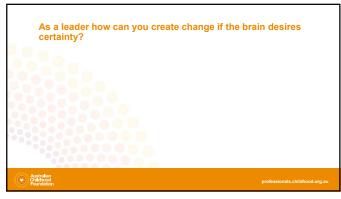
- A 2005 study called Neural Systems Responding to Degrees of Uncertainty in Human Decision-Making found that even a small amount of ambiguity activates the amygdala and with it the threat response.
- The more ambiguity, the more the threat response is activated, which reduces our openness to learning. It also means we are less likely to connect with others and we tend to be more risk averse.
- This has become known as the Ellsberg paradox.

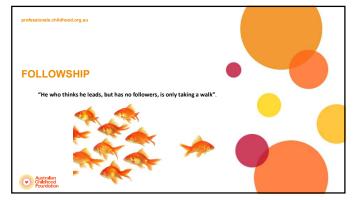
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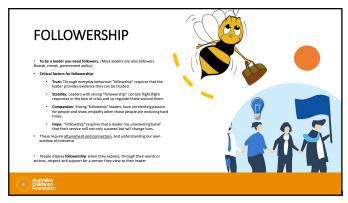


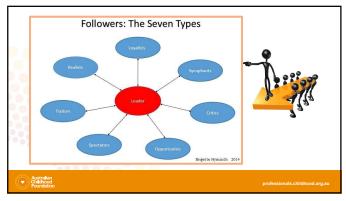
Creating change within certainty By using neuroscience it is more effective to create change In the right personal doses, autonomy – freedom of self-control – activates the brain's reward centre. the reward system is a collection of brain structures that attempts to regulate and control behaviour by inducing pleasurable effects. It is a brain circuit that, when activated, reinforces behaviours. Focus on relationships, build habits, activate insight, focus on learning Build employee resilience in the face of setbacks. Focusing on the neuroscience means leaders can expect repeated results, no matter the context.

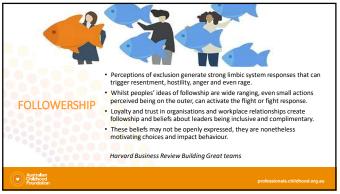












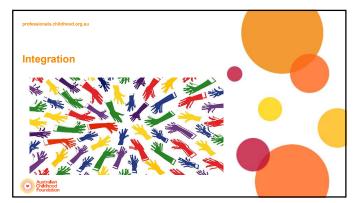
Staff are constantly trolling the environment for examples of compliments. When they perceive inclusion and positive feedback feel-good dopamine is activated in the brain; with a sense of trust increasing levels of reinforcing oxytocin are released. There are plenty of reasons to ask more questions like "What would you do?" or "What possibilities do you see here?" These are openended, thought-provoking questions, not solutions disguised as questions. The most compelling reasons to ask rather than tell grounded in neuroscience. Neuroplasticity -means our brains can physically change to encourage creative thinking and new knowledge. The neurons can move into new locations in our brain when we learn. Questions can act as a catalyst for our brains to change and move forward with new insight.

Followship in practice

- Develop neuroscience-based coaching skills
- Motivate with mental contrasting
- Ask insightful questions- What would you do?" or "What possibilities do you see here?" These are open-ended, thought-provoking questions, not solutions disguised as questions.
- Encourage creative thinking
- Prime your staff to question



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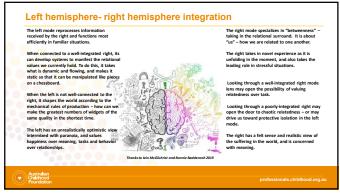


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Integration

- Integration is at the heart of interpersonal neurobiology.
- Defined as the linkage of differentiated components of a system, integration is viewed as the core mechanism in the cultivation of well-being.
- In an individual's mind, integration involves the linkage of separate aspects of mental processes to each other, such as thought with feeling, bodily sensation with logic.
- In a relationship, integration entails each person's being respected for his or her autonomy and differentiated self while at the same time being linked to others in empathic communication.





Integration "Integration is seen as the essential mechanism of health as it promotes a flexible and adaptive way of being that is filled with vitality and creativity. The ultimate outcome of integration is harmony. The absence of integration leads to chaos and rigidity—a finding that enables us to re-envision our understanding and how we can work together in the fields of mental health, education, and other disciplines, to create a healthier, more integrated world." Seigel D. 2017.











CONNECTEDNESS

- Neuroscientist John Cacioppo talks about the need for safe human contact being a primary driver, like the need for food (Cacioppo, 2008). In the absence of safe social interactions the body generates a threat response.
- A feeling of relatedness is what you get when you feel like you belong in a group, when you are with others of your 'in group'.
- Just as traditional neuroscience/therapeutic interventions had for many years
 considered the brain as an isolated entity and largely ignored the influences of the social
 environment as a factor, now management theorists will have to recognise the
 considerable impact of social structures on the operations of mind and body.

"Where attention goes, neural firing flows, and neural connection grows." Seigel 2018.

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Connectedness

- Humans are social animals and our brains are geared to connect. As we relate more easily with people we perceive as similar, great leaders make a conscious effort to create positive connections in every interaction. They avoid making assumptions about people and stay curious and open with each individual they meet and lead.
- They also focus on building trust, creating safety and enhancing the social capital of the organisation and team.
- Mirror neurons-Mirror neurons can be defined as a group of neurons that activate when we perform an action or when we see an action being performed. Mirror neurons are essential for imitation which is key in the learning process.

Marco Iacoboni 2008

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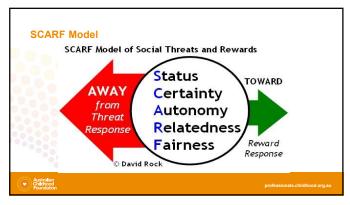
It seems too good to be true, but effective 1-on-1 communication really can drive engagement across entire organizations. What do we mean by effective? It means managers should ask rather than tell. They should move direct reports into what psychologists call a "toward" state, rather than an "away" state. They should harness growth mindset to build employee resilience in the face of setbacks. Focusing on the science means leaders can expect repeated results, no matter the context. Simply put, quality conversations can't happen unless leaders and teams CONNECT. "I see you." "I am here"

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The model in leadership. By understanding the neurobiology of social and behavioural drivers, we are better able to design interactions with people to maximise rewards and minimise threats. Autonomic: Certainty: Followership: Be transparent and consistent be enable people to feel safety Be an inspiring leader understand the catalyst of followers Integration Maximise individuals regulation and somatic experiences Motivation and passion to both calm and provide arousal Connectedness: Influence and inspire by understanding the neurobiology of connection Leading with understanding, trust, gentleness, curiosity, warmth, inclusive welcome and inner Stiffness: Professionals childhood org. au

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Professionals childhood org au Recent studies indicate that mindfulness meditation training interventions reduce stress and improve stress-related health outcomes Meditation training can improve mood and emotion regulation, yet the neural mechanisms of these affective changes have yet to be fully elucidated. Meditation training was associated with less amygdala reactivity to positive pictures relative to controls, but there were no group differences in response to negative pictures. Reductions in reactivity to negative stimuli may require more practice experience or concentrated practice. Cresswell et al 2014





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