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# **Session Goals**

Today we will look at:

- How to support children and families affected by trauma.
- Introduce frameworks to support your practice
- Implementing trauma informed practice in your service

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# Hearing From Each Other • Who are you? • Where are you? • How are you?

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# Reflect on:

- What parts of this training will be relevant in your work
- Are there any special considerations you need to take into account

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Relationships \_\_\_\_\_\_

Trauma	Informed	Practice

- The adult takes responsibility for the relationship.
- Connects and tries to understand and support the family and child

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# **Trauma and Relationships**

As we know a secure relationship is central to the development of:

- a positive sense of self
- empathic and sensitive interaction
- adaptive and flexible emotional regulation skill.



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# How are you going to.....

- Build relationships?
- Be playful?
- Be empathic?
- Engage?
- Be curious?
- Be accepting?







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## How do we...



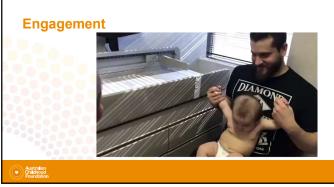
- Build relationships with children and learn their stories?
- How do we ensure there is relational repair after a conflict/rupture in our relationships with children?

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# **Building Safety & Connection**

- Children effected by trauma need stable, safe, consistent environments and relationships to help them to be calm and open to learning
- Safety = predictable and consistent routines, relationships and responses



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# **Neuroception of Safety: Predictability**

Predictability is a metaphor for safety

"The removal of threat is not the same as the presence of safety" (Porges, 2014)



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# **Building Safety & Connection**

Managing transitions and change is extremely difficult for traumatised children

- · transitions are experienced as a threat
- · they feel a lose of their sense of safety
- they may revert to survival mode

How can you help children to feel safe during TRANSITIONS?

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### **Transitions**

How can you provide safe passage for children through the transition?

- Safe/predictable person
- Safe/predictable activity or routine
- Safe/predictable place or object

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# What might you need to change to ensure the following in your work with children:

- Predictability
- Consistency
- Safe transitions
- Engagement

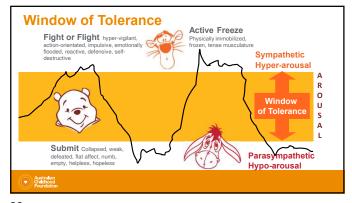


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# Working with MOBILISED Responses Fight What it might look like • Angry, aggressive, irritable • Confrontational, controlling, shouting • Blaming others, pushing others away, argumentative

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# **Working with MOBILISED Responses Fight**

## Supportive responses

- Help me stabilise my hyper-aroused nervous system
- Rhythm, containing and grounding
- Match my energy before helping me calm down
- Hanging, swinging, climbing, marching
- Stomping, jumping on the spot, drumming



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# **Working with MOBILISED Responses Flight**

### What it might look like

- Anxious, silly, manic
- · Running away, hiding, disruptive
- Difficulty with free play, silly voices, distracting



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**Working with MOBILISED Responses Flight** Supportive responses Be kind and patient when "finding" or collecting me Offer me an easy task/chore to do • Help me settle my body – weighted blankets, heat packs Engage senses Encourage me to hang/swing/carry something heavy





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# Working with MOBILISED Responses Active Freeze

# What it might look like

- Arousal is high, but movement is inhibited

• May look confused or distracted Scanning the room, dilated pupils, wide eyes

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# Working with MOBILISED Responses Active Freeze

### Supportive responses

- Be curious with the child about the freeze state are there any places that are less frozen than others?
- Gently facilitate movement e.g. Wiggling one finger
- Play with metaphors like thawing ice
- Encourage breathing
- Engage senses
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# Working with IMMOBILISED Responses Submit

# What it might look like

- · Low, sad, flat mood
- Quiet, compliant
- Alone, withdrawn



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# Working with IMMOBILISED Responses Submit

# Supportive responses

- Orienting to the space/grounding exercises
- Orienting the senses
- Alignment- engaging the spine



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# **Maintaining – Social Engagement**

# What it might look like

- Engaged in activities
- Chatty, talks to adults and peers
- Interacts with peers in play



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# Maintaining – Social Engagement Supportive responses • Prosody • Using the sing-song, story-telling voice • Using breathing techniques

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# **Encourage Breathing Activities**

- Bee breathing
- Snake Breathing
- Blow the pinwheel/bubbles
- Triangle breath
- Figure Eight

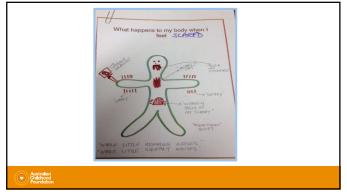




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# **Social Engagement: Engaging Muscles from Heart to Head**

Social engagement through eye contact is perceived as threatening and may elicit defensive responses. Other facial muscles can be safely engaged - e.g. inner ear (Porges)

- prosody
- use story-telling voice/upper register pitch
- singing/music
- use breathing techniques to regulate heart beat
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# **Social Engagement:**

What does living in the window of tolerance look like for each child?

What do you do to widen their window of tolerance?



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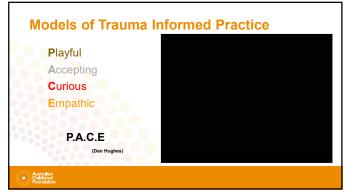
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# P.A.C.E

- Playful light, open, hopeful, spontaneous.
- Accepting unconditional acceptance of the experience of the child (feelings, emotions and thoughts).
- Curiosity non-judgemental, active interest in the child's experience, as well as behaviours to learn what is triggering them.
- Empathy about past hurts and present challenges. A 'felt' sense of the child, which is actively experienced and communicated.

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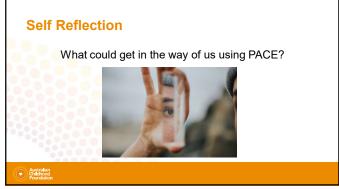
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# Acceptance "Thanks for telling me about what happened. I feel sad that you've had such a difficult time."

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# **Models of Trauma Informed Practise**

Needs

Re-frame child's perceptions

Time in & repair

Use words for child's experience Reflect back child's feelings

Enjoy play together

N.U.R.T.U.R.E

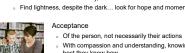
Anticipate child's <b>N</b> eeds			
Unconditional positive regard			
Reframe child's perceptions			
Time in and repair			
Use words for child's experience			
Reflect back child's feelings			
Enjoy play together			

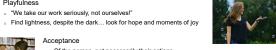


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# **Being PACEful with Ourselves**

### Playfulness







- With compassion and understanding, knowing they are probably doing the best they know how
- $_{\circ}$  What is possible and what is not possible (be the calm in the chaos)

### Curiosity

- 。 Rather than assuming, be open and ask 。 "I wonder..." "How are you travelling?"





