

WINDOW OF TOLERANCE

Each of us has a specific threshold for stress and trauma; this threshold can be explained as our Window of Tolerance. The wider your window, the greater your tolerance for stressful events and demanding situations. The narrower your window, the lower your tolerance for stressful situations and hardship. The width of your window is not fixed, though, and it's been shown that persistent stress and trauma shrink your window while safe connection and healing widen your window of tolerance.

SYMPATHETIC SYSTEM ACTIVATED: STATE OF HYPERAROUSAL

- Feelings of extreme anxiousness with possible panic attacks.
- Feel overwhelmed and out of control.
 - Want to fight or run away.





DYSREGULATION

- Feelings of frustration and agitation increase.
- Uncomfortable feelings start to increase but still in control.

Stress Trauma triggers **Anxiety** Rejection Abandonment



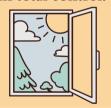




PARASYMPATHETIC SYSTEM STIMULATED (VENTRAL VAGAL NERVE)

WINDOW OF TOLERANCE

- Feel present, calm and safe.
 - In total control.







Mindfulness Grounding exercises Gratitude Positive self talk Deep breathing

DYSREGULATION

- Getting close to the stage of shutting down.
- Uncomfortable feelings start to increase but still in control.





PARASYMPATHETIC SYSTEM ACTIVATED (DORSAL VAGAL **NERVE):STATE OF HYPOAROUSAL**

- Feel physically numb and frozen.
- Feel disconnected and zoned out.
 - Lethargic and no energy

WINDOW OF TOLERANCE

HOW AM I FEELING? WHAT CAN I DO?

WINDOW OF TOLERANCE

What are your symptoms of each stage. Circle and add your own.

SIGNS OF HYPERAROUSAL



Sweaty, angry, frustrated, throwing things, breaking things, name-calling, fighting, hot flushes, running away, feeling out of control, emotional outbursts, can't sleep, agitated, tense, can't concentrate, memory problems.

MY WINDOW STARTS TO CLOSE WHEN..

Physical Pain Emotional Pain Stressed Overwhelmed Exhausted Tired



SIGNS OF HYPOAROUSAL



Feel numb, frozen, spaced out, struggle to keep up in conversations, can't concentrate, have memory problems, substance abuse, cancel plans, hideaway, binge eating, and don't get back to others.

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WINDOW OF TOLERANCE COPING SKILLS CHECKLIST

EAT 3 HEALTHY MEALS	
7+ HOURS OF SLEEP	
DRINK FRESH WATER	
GET FRESH AIR	
PRACTICE MINDFULNESS	
WRITE DOWN 3 THINGS YOU ARE GRATEFUL FOR	
BRUSH YOUR TEETH	
HAVE A WARM SHOWER	
MAKE YOUR BED	HAVE A CUP OF TEA
READ A BOOK	DO NOTHING- ENJOY THE PEACE
LISTEN TO MUSIC	TRY SOMETHING NEW
SPEND TIME WITH FRIENDS	DO SOME COLORING IN
	MAKE YOUR FAVORITE FOOD
DECLUTTER A SMALL SPACE	
HAVE A SOCIAL MEDIA DETOX	
ASK FOR A HUG	
SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY	
DO A HOBBY	
WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL	
SAY 5 THINGS YOU LOVE ABOUT YOURSELF	
DO SOME EXERCISE	
WASH YOUR HAIR	