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Trigger Awareness Worksheet

- 1. What are your most common emotional triggers in relationships?
- Example: Feeling ignored, being yelled at, being left out, etc.
- 2. What emotions arise when you are triggered?
- Example: Fear, anger, sadness, shame

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- 3. Where do you feel this in your body?
- Circle areas on a body outline or describe below:

- 4. How do you typically respond when triggered?
- Fight / Flight / Freeze / Fawn

5. What helps you feel safe again?

- Coping tools, people, environments

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Window of Tolerance Chart

Signs You're IN Your Window:

- Calm but alert
- Emotionally present
- Able to think clearly
- Connected to others

Signs of Hyperarousal (Above Window):

- Anxious, angry, overwhelmed
- Racing thoughts or heart
- Feeling unsafe or out of control

Signs of Hypoarousal (Below Window):

- Numb, shut down
- Withdrawn or dissociated
- Exhausted or disconnected

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Grounding Techniques Checklist

Use these grounding techniques to return to the present moment when feeling triggered or Overwhelmed.

- 5-4-3-2-1 Sensory Grounding
- Deep Belly Breathing
- Cold Water Splash or Ice Cube
- Naming Objects Around You
- Grounding Touch (pressing feet into floor)
- Tapping (EFT)
- Smell Something Strong (peppermint, lavender)
- Weighted Blanket or Hug

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Communication Scripts for Conflict

- 1. 'I feel [emotion] when [triggering behavior]. I need [need].'
- Example: 'I feel anxious when you walk away during conflict. I need us to agree on a pause and return time.'
- 2. 'When this happens, my trauma response is triggered. Can we talk about how to make this safer for both of us?'
- 3. 'I'm noticing I'm getting triggered. I need a moment to ground before continuing this conversation.'

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Journal Prompts for Integration

- 1. What relationships or patterns bring up the most emotional charge for me?
- 2. What do I need to feel emotionally safe with someone?
- 3. How do I typically respond when I feel emotionally threatened?
- 4. What is one way I can begin to respond differently?
- 5. What do I want to experience more of in my relationships?
- 6. What does healing in love look and feel like to me?