



Key Tools to Stay Grounded & Centered

Build your stress recovery toolkit to stay well
before, during, and after difficult moments

Sample Content

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Our Goals for Today...

- Understand how stress affects our bodies and behaviours.
- Learn a useful framework for pausing and taking stock.
- Tools including the Window of Tolerance, Low Impact Debriefing, and the Hot Walk & Talk protocol
- Build a toolkit of micro-skills that can be used before, during, and after stressful situations.



What messages did you receive
about “self-care”?

EMOTIONAL AROUSAL



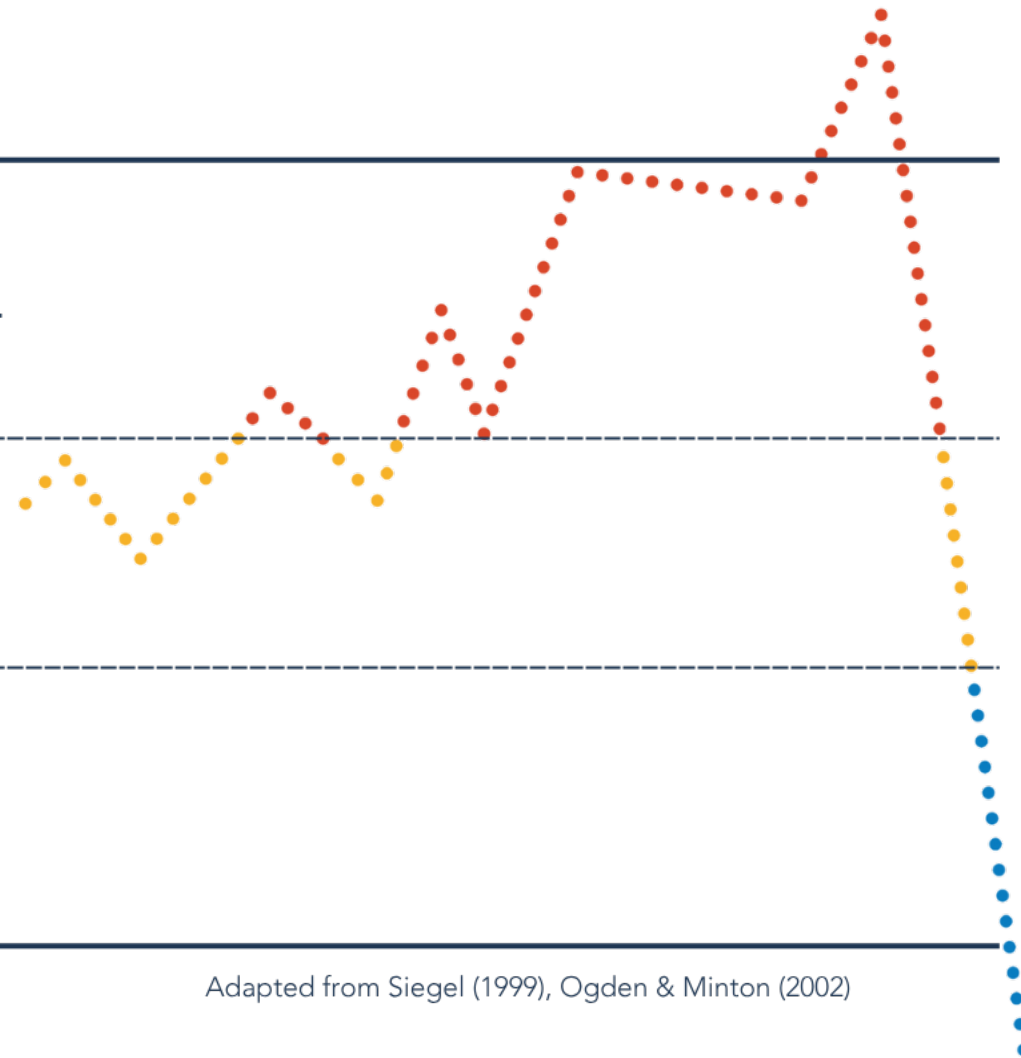
HYPERAROUSAL



OPTIMAL ZONE



HYPOAROUSAL



Adapted from Siegel (1999), Ogden & Minton (2002)

You receive an email and notice...

- Racing heartbeat
- Throat constricts
- Tight chest or other physiological change



We see or hear difficult things, a normal reaction is to want to debrief with someone.

The problem is that we are often **debriefing ourselves all over each other.**

(Mathieu, 2012)



Low Impact Debriefing



SELF-AWARENESS



FAIR WARNING



CONSENT



LIMITED DISCLOSURE



HOT WALK & TALK

A protocol for supporting others after a
difficult, upsetting, or traumatic event

(Fisher, 2012)

“How much self-care
do you recommend?”



Low Impact Debriefing

Adapted from Pearlman & Saakvitne, 1995



1. Self-Awareness

Check in with yourself - how are you feeling? After witnessing a challenging situation, take a moment to reflect on how you feel and what you need.



2. Fair Warning

After you've identified a trusted person to connect with, warn your listener that the content you want to discuss is potentially disturbing or traumatic.



3. Consent

Seek permission before sharing any details. This allows the listener to decline or set boundaries around what they have capacity to hear.



4. Limited Disclosure

Start with the least disturbing details and gradually add more info as needed. You may not need to share the most graphic details to get the benefits of connecting with a trusted person.



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