

WHAT IS WINDOW OF TOLERANCE?

Colned by Dr. Dan Slegel, the Window of Tolerance refers to the optimal zone of arousal where a person can function effectively. Within this window, clients are emotionally regulated and capable of engaging in therapy, processing their experiences, and developing new coping strategies.



SAFETY

Clients need to feel physically and emotionally safe in the therapeutic setting. This includes establishing trust, setting clear boundaries, and maintaining a non-judgmental, empathetic presence.

2 predictablity

A structured and predictable session format helps reduce anxiety and uncertainty. Clear communication about what to expect in therapy allows clients to feel more in control.

3 REPETITION AND CONSISTENCY

Regular use of calming techniques such as breathing exercises, grounding practices, and mindfulness helps reinforce safety. Consistent therapeutic routines enable the brain to associate these practices with a sense of calm and regulation.



Trauma-Responsive Clinical Practice: Applications & Innovations Ashley Austin, PhD, LCSW and Jennifer Williams, PhD, LCSW.