# **7** Things Every Teacher Should Know about the Physiological Impact of Trauma Presented by Dyane Carrere, M.Ed.



Stress changes...

Trauma may change...

A universal way we can support... Assume \_\_\_\_\_\_not \_\_\_\_\_not \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1 Cognitive Functioning Differences

Ways we can support....

- design calm environments
- act as translator
- convey calm
- gently invite to think

#### 2 Vision & Auditory Differences

Ways we can support....

- use visuals
- keep verbalizations simple
- use key words
- be aware of one's body language

### 3 Hippocampus & Prefrontal Cortex Differences

Ways we can support....

- create routines
- use visuals as much as possible
- use chunking strategies

provide peer support strategies

#### 4 Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex Differences

Ways we can support....

- use analog clocks & reference time frequently
- provide checkpoints for tasks
- illuminate sequence/practice sequencing
- use "Big Thing" question approach

### 5 Posterior Cingulate Differences

Ways we can support....

- provide grounding opportunities
- avoid unstable seating
- offer seating/standing options
- teach "grounding touch points"

#### 6 Vasopressin & Oxytocin Differences

Ways we can support....

- model your regulation strategies
- explicitly teach regulation such as through The Re-Set Process
- teach activity not aggression for calming
- be careful with breath, squeeze balls, etc.

## 7 Neurological System Organization Differences

Ways we can support....

- develop calm, safe, predictable environments
- practice activities that strengthen key channels
- provide fine motor skill supports
- establish simple hygiene routines for all