



12 Core Concepts for Understanding Traumatic Stress Responses in Childhood



1 Traumatic experiences are inherently complex.



3 Traumatic events often generate secondary adversities, life changes, and distressing reminders in children's daily lives.



5 Danger and safety are core concerns in the lives of traumatized children.



7 Protective and promotive factors can reduce the adverse impact of trauma.



9 Developmental neurobiology underlies children's reactions to traumatic experiences.



11 Challenges to the social contract, including legal and ethical issues, affect trauma response and recovery.



2 Trauma occurs within a broad context that includes children's personal characteristics, life experiences, and current circumstances.



4 Children can exhibit a wide range of reactions to trauma and loss.



6 Traumatic experiences affect the family and broader caregiving systems.



8 Trauma and posttrauma adversities can strongly influence development.



10 Culture is closely interwoven with traumatic experiences, response, and recovery.



12 Working with trauma-exposed children can evoke distress in providers that makes it more difficult for them to provide good care.

Layne, C. M., Pynoos, R. S., Strand, V., & the NCTSN Core Curriculum on Childhood Trauma Task Force (2013). The 12 Core Concepts: Concepts for Understanding Traumatic Stress Responses in Children and Families (Explicated Version). Core Curriculum on Childhood Trauma. Los Angeles, CA, and Durham, NC: UCLA-Duke University National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.

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