



Wired for Threat: How Trauma Alters Sensory Modulation Processing

Presented by: Tina Tessier Champagne, OT, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Delivery method: On-Demand

Instruction level: Intermediate

Sponsored by: NCS Pearson, Inc.

Course Description

Trauma fundamentally alters how the central nervous system processes and regulates sensory information. This 1-hour presentation explores the potential impact of trauma on sensory modulation, where everyday sounds, scents, lights, or textures can trigger challenges, such as hyperarousal or dissociation. Participants will learn about neurological defense mechanisms and a trauma-informed framework that can be used to explore individualized sensory modulation-related supports and strategies.

Learner Outcomes

After completing this learning track, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the neurobiology of trauma and how it may impact sensory modulation-related patterns.
2. Identify ways in which sensory modulation-related, neurological defense mechanisms may disrupt participation in everyday activities among people with trauma histories
3. Identify how to design individualized, trauma-informed sensory modulation-related programs as part of holistic care.

Time-Ordered Agenda

10 minutes	Defining sensory modulation and trauma
15 minutes	Neurobiology of trauma
15 minutes	A framework for sensory modulation in trauma-informed care -
10 minutes	Incorporating sensory modulation strategies in clinical practice
10 minutes	Q&A

About the Presenter

Tina Champagne is the CEO of Cutchins Programs for Children and Families. She has expertise in trauma, attachment, sensory integration, trauma-informed approaches, and leadership in organizational change. She has published two books and numerous book chapters and articles. She created the Sensory Modulation Program, which has been applied across a variety of age ranges and practice settings. Tina has received many awards for her work including the 2023 Award of Merit, the highest honor from the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Disclosure

Financial: Dr. Champagne receives an honorarium for this presentation.

Non-financial: There is no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

NCS Pearson Inc., the sponsor of this learning track, develops and distributes assessments and intervention tools for speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and psychologists.

References

Cabrera, C., Torres, H., Harcourt, S. (2020). The neurological and neuropsychological effects of child maltreatment. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 54, 101408. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2020.101408>.

Champagne, T. (2026). *Sensory Modulation Program*. In T. Machingura & P. Meredith (Eds.) *Sensory Approaches to Mental Health Practice*. Elsevier. [Sensory Approaches to Mental Health Practice - 1st Edition | Elsevier Shop](#)

Harricharan, S., McKinnon, M. C., & Lanius, R. A. (2021). How processing of sensory information from the internal and external worlds shape the perception and engagement with the world in the aftermath of Trauma: Implications for PTSD. *Frontiers in neuroscience*, 15, 625490. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnins.2021.625490>

Joseph, R. Y., Casteleijn, D., van der Linde, J., & Franzsen, D. (2021). Sensory Modulation Dysfunction in Child Victims of Trauma: a Scoping Review. *Journal of child & adolescent trauma*, 14(4), 455–470. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-020-00333-x>



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Learner Outcomes

After completing this learning track, participants will be able to:

4.

Time-Ordered Agenda

About the Presenter

<insert bio here>

Disclosure

Financial: <insert presenter information>

Non-financial: There is no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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References

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Assessment of Learning Outcomes

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