Complex Trauma in Very Young Children- Part 1

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Introduction

- Self
- Topic
- Questions I will be answering

















- In studies of neglect paradigm, Tronick and Weinberg write, "When infants are <u>not in homeo-static</u> balance or are emotionally dysregulated (e.g. they are distressed) <u>they are</u> <u>at the mercy of these states.</u>
- Until these states are brought under control, infants must devote all their regulatory resources to reorganizing them. While infants are doing that, they can do nothing else."



 According to Schore, the "nothing else" that the authors refer to "is a failure to continue to develop." These infants "forfeit potential opportunities for socioemotional learning during critical periods of right brain development (i.e., synaptogenesis)."

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What does a "traumatic response" look like in a young child? What kind of experiences can cause this response?







































Complex Trauma results when... Frequency Multiple trauma's → worse Many, over time → worse Duration Of the episodes Inescapable Intensity Some experiences are so overwhelming as to be intolerable and cause uncontrollable dissociation or rage in the survivor (repeatedly) Unpredictability Perpetrator aspects Source of attachment, safety and security

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