

Transforming Connections

Building Emotional Resilience

Week 3 of 5

Questions between sessions:

 workshop@SILAskills.org

   @SilaSkills

Welcome back!

Workshop created by The SILA Skills Group

NOTE:

1. The content of this workshop is directed *solely* to the skill development of the participants and is in *no way intended* to represent appropriate training to teach the skills to others/clients within or outside the organization.
2. SILA and SILA facilitators are not therapists. This workshop is in *no way intended* to supplement or replace any personal and/or professional therapy.
3. This workshop is *no way intended* to supplement or replace any organizational safety procedures and protocols. Participants are expected to follow and prioritize their organization's procedures and protocols.



Mindfulness Practice



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Blank beginner's mind;
Never "I already know"
Always "more to learn"

Dailyzenhaiku.com

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What's been going on?

Let's Review



➤ Relationship Mindfulness

Being present in the relationship with awareness, empathy, and without judgement.

What Skills: Observe, Describe, Participate

How Skills: Non-Judgmentally, One-mindfully, Effectively

➤ States of Mind -> Wise Mind, Emotion Mind, Rational Mind

➤ Basic Assumptions

1. There is no one or any absolute truth
2. Benign interpretation
3. Everyone is doing the best they can in this moment
4. Keep trying, trying differently

AND "do you want to be right or effective?"

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Let's Review



- **Importance of Empathy**
- **Transactional Model**
- **6 levels of validation**

(Being present, Accurate Reflection, Mind Reading, Past History or Biology, Normalizing, Radical Genuineness)

* **Cheerleading + VALIDATION = winning combination!**

We feel validated when ...



what we get from the outside

aligns with what we feel on the inside

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Let's Review



➤ **Validation**

- Tips :

Look for the kernel of truth, Less is more, Address the emotion,
Verbal and Non-Verbal, Empathy, Be Present

Match level of intensity minus 1

You



Patient

- What gets in the way of validation:

Wanting to be right, Justifying ourselves, Quick to problem solve,

Thinking - not fair, just trying to get attention, we are approving/condoning behaviour

➤ **Self Validation and Self Invalidation**

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Validation Practice



Validation 1: I overheard the doctor telling that patient that he will need to amputate his leg. I don't want this surgeon! I want to keep my leg!

1. You really shouldn't be listening. Those conversations are private.
2. His prognosis is different than yours. That would never happen in your case.
3. Oh my! I can just imagine how scary that must have sounded!

Validation 2: In 1983 I was hiking and I twisted my knee. I never got it checked out. That's when arthritis set in. I can always tell when we are going to get rain....!

How might we respond in a validating way?

Validation 3: Linda has knee arthritis. While discussing conservative treatment options, the APP notes Linda's BMI is 45 and it would help her knee if she lost some weight. Linda becomes agitated & red in the face, stating "of course you'd say that! As if I never thought of that! You're no help!"

How might we respond in a validating way?



Validation Practice



Validation 4: Filomena is a 53 year old who has had a knee replacement. She attends outpatient physiotherapy sessions, but often limits her participation due to 14/10 pain. The therapist learns she is not taking any pain medications despite her pain levels as she's afraid of being addicted.

How might we respond in a validating way?

Validation 5: In a post-operative review clinic, the APP sees Alice for her first post-op follow up visit after hip replacement. She is doing well and is happy with her progress. She wants to thank the surgeon and show how well she is doing. The surgeon proceeds to tell Alice how lucky she is that nothing went wrong and to detail things that could have gone wrong. She tells Alice she is not strong enough yet & still at great risk of falling. When the surgeon walks away, Alice looks visibly upset & the APP is left to manage the situation.

How might we respond in a validating way?



Let's Review



➤ Distress Tolerance Skills (8 - 10 level of intensity of emotion)

- STOP
 - Stop Take a step back, **Observe**, **Proceed**
- TIP
 - **T**emperature, **I**ntense Exercise, **P**aced Breathing/**P**aired muscle relaxation
- Half Smile Willing Hands
 - Mona Lisa smile, palms up, fingers extended
- Radical Acceptance
 - When there is no solution to the problem and it's causing suffering.
 - 100% acceptance of reality as it is. Full and complete

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Share your Practice



1. Previous weeks:
 - One in one: Do 1 thing mindfully for 1 min each day.
 - Practice basic assumptions: how did outcomes change?
 - During the week notice transactions - share 1 transaction which could have had a different outcome?
 - Notice empathy. Notice sympathy.
 - Notice when you felt validated AND when you didn't.
 - Notice judgements vs being judgmental.
 - Notice cues/habits, mental/physical, you have to help you be present with your patient/co-worker/family.
 - Pick one missed opportunity for validation. What you could have done differently?
 - How did validation opportunities change outcomes?
2. Practice Distress Tolerance Skills - STOP, TIP, Half Smile, Willing Hands, Radical Acceptance. Notice your level of distress before and after your skills practice.




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What to expect - Week 3



SILA

Our superhero powers

-  Mindfulness
-  Basic Assumptions
-  Validation

Our own mental health

Distress Tolerance - Radical Acceptance

Emotion Regulation Skills for Self-Care and Mental Wellness

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Goal of Emotion Management



Goal is to reduce **emotional** suffering/vulnerability by understanding and being able to **control or influence** which emotions you have, when you have them, and how you experience and express them.

NOT to eliminate them

We can regulate emotions by:

- Understanding and labelling our emotions
- Decreasing the frequency of unwanted emotions
- Decreasing vulnerability to emotion mind
- Decreasing emotional suffering

Goal is to stay out of Emotion Mind

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Emotion Regulation Skills – What do they do?



- Regulate our physiology, experience and actions associated with emotions
- Reduce emotional vulnerability: HALTS
- Decrease impulsive and ineffective behaviours related to strong emotions
- Reduce emotional suffering
- Increase positive emotions

Keep you out of Emotion Mind!

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Emotion Management - How



1. Be aware of rising emotional arousal: using mindfulness
2. Accurately label emotion: What emotion am I really feeling?
3. Ask yourself: Do I need to do something about it?
 - ☐ No: accept of the emotion, situation and its consequences
 - ☐ Yes: Change the situation, or your reaction to it by using:
 - › mindfulness skills
 - › distress tolerance skills
 - › emotion regulation skills

Remember: Open your mind before you open your mouth!

Either avoid saying anything, go on with other activities, or engage the other person constructively on a different topic

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Emotion Regulation Skills - What are they?



- Self Soothe
- PLEASE Skills
- Check the Facts
- The WAVE Skill
- Opposite Action
- Accumulate Positive Emotions

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Self-Soothe – Using the Five Senses



Try these things when you are feeling stressed, when emotions feel overwhelming, or simply as a way to be good to yourself!

In your office:
Create a wellness Kit for yourself and your patients/co-workers!

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Mindfulness Practice



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Self-care PLEASE Skills



- Treat **P**hysical **L** illness
- Balance **E**ating Habits
- A**void Mood Altering Drugs
- Balance **S**leep
- Get **E**xercise Regularly

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Self-care Decreasing Emotional Vulnerability



How many have heard self-care is important?

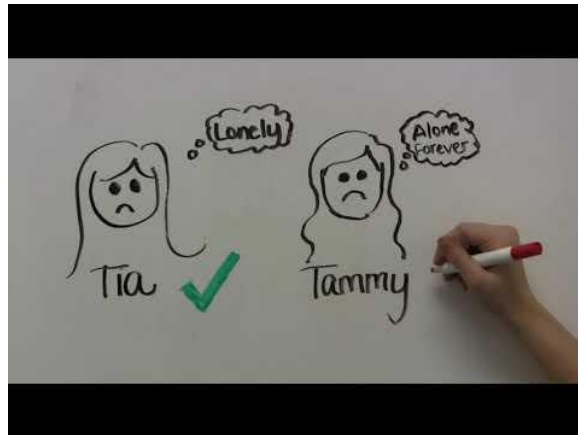
How many of you practice self-care?

For those who do not practice self-care – what gets in the way?

For those who do practice – what does self-care look like to you and how do you fit it in?



Check the Facts



Check the FACTS and Problem Solving



1. **DESCRIBE** the problem situation
Be sure you have the right problem
2. Check all the **FACTS**
 - ✓ *Are you interpreting the situation correctly?*
 - ✓ *Are you thinking in extremes?*
 - ✓ *ARE they facts or are they judgements?*
 - ✓ *What is the probability of the worst happening?*
 - *Even if that were to happen, could you imagine coping well with it?*
 - *If you are still faced with a big problem, then...*

3. **IDENTIFY** the GOAL in solving the problem
What needs to happen or change to feel ok?
4. **BRAINSTORM** solutions
List all, don't discard any solutions
5. **CHOOSE** a solution most likely to work
Maybe even a couple
6. Put the solution into **ACTION**
Try it out!
7. **EVALUATE** the outcomes
If it worked - Reward yourself
If not, reward yourself for trying and try something else



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For any problem: **SCREW IT!**

There are 5 ways you can address a problem you face:

- You can **SOLVE** it
- You can **C**hange your relationship to the problem
- You can **R**adically accept the problem
- You can **E**ntertain staying miserable
- You can **W**orsen the problem by doing things that make the situation even more complicated.

SCREW IT Example

Problem: No internet at work

Solve the Problem

change the situation - call tech support

Change your relationship to the problem

change your emotions in reaction to it - tech issues happen

Radically accept

accept both the problem and your response - the internet is going to go down and I will be frustrated.

Entertain staying miserable

continue to grumble and complain about the internet being unstable

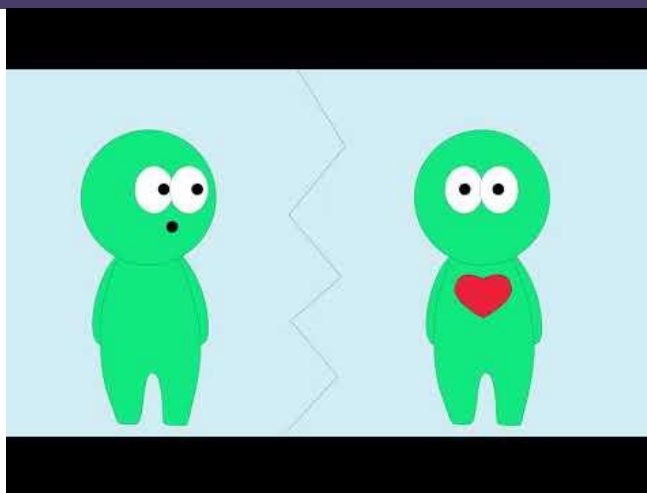
Make things worse

yell and scream at everyone around you, complain to patients how you can't do your work

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Mindfulness of Current Emotions



The WAVE Skill



- **OBSERVE** your Emotion
 - Note its presence in your mind & body
 - Identify your emotion if you can
 - Visually take a step back from it in your mind
- **EXPERIENCE** your Emotion
 - Feel your emotion coming & going, like a **WAVE** on a beach
 - Try not to **BLOCK** or **SHUT OFF** your emotion
 - Don't try to **GET RID** of it or **PUSH** it away
 - Don't try to make the emotion feel more or less intense, **JUST ALLOW IT TO BE**

Letting go of
Suffering
Through
MINDFULNESS

Created by Laurel L. Johnson, Kinark Child and Family services. Adapted from Marsha M. Linehan's Skills Training Manual for Treating Borderline Personality Disorder. Guilford Press, 1993, and Alec L. Miller's Multi-Family Skills Training Group, 2008

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The WAVE Skill More about emotions



REMEMBER: you are not your emotion!

DON'T JUDGE your Emotion

emotions are not good or bad, they just are

Practice **WILLINGNESS!**

Radically **ACCEPT** your emotion.



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“ You can’t stop the waves
but you can learn to surf

”

- Jon Kabat Zinn

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Opposite Action



Opposite Action - When to use...



1. The emotion doesn't fit the facts; it is not justified.
2. Your emotion is too intense, it's lasted too long or acting on that emotion will not be effective.
3. You **WANT** to change that emotion.

Opposite Action - How



- Change your current emotional state by acting in an opposite and more effective way
- Every emotion has an action urge, change the emotion by acting opposite to its action urge
- Have to do it all the way!

Opposite Action Practice



EMOTION	URGE	OPPOSITE ACTION
FEAR	Escape or avoid	APPROACH
ANGER	Attack	GENTLY AVOID
SADNESS	Withdraw, be passive	GET ACTIVE
SHAME	Avoid or hide	*MAKE PUBLIC, TELL
GUILT	Disclaim all responsibility, hide	*MAKE PUBLIC, TELL
JEALOUSY	Attempt to control	LET GO
LOVE	Giving affection	STOP EXPRESSING LOVE

* Make public or tell who people who won't reject you, you feel safe with.

Remember: ALL THE WAY!



Accumulate Positive Emotions



Goal: Increase the positive or pleasant events and emotions experienced by *intentionally* building them into your life.

Short Term: What can you do now? ENGAGE

Long Term: What can you do to so pleasant events happen more often? What's important to you? PLAN and EXECUTE

Accumulating Pleasant Activities - Short Term



Thinking about your vacation/weekend

Listening to music

Singing

Working out

Soaking in a tub

Looking at photos

Connecting with a friend

Getting a mani/pedi

Writing

Cooking

Other?

Let's brainstorm....



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Accumulating Pleasant Activities - Long Term



What's important to you? What's dragging you down?

Consider:

What's an important goal you want to achieve?

Identify 1 action you can take to achieve your goal.

Is there a relationship you've been taking for granted or neglecting?

Identify 1 action you can take to pay attention to this relationship.

Are you avoiding?

What is it? Commit to getting it done. "I will...by....date/time".

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Mindfulness Practice

Week 3 Practice Exercises

1. Continue to practice the all skills shared in previous weeks' exercises.
 - One in one: Do 1 thing mindfully for 1 min each day.
 - Practice basic assumptions: how did outcomes change?
 - During the week notice transactions - which could have had a different outcome?
 - Notice empathy. Notice sympathy.
 - Notice when you felt validated AND when you didn't.
 - Notice judgements vs being judgmental.
 - Notice habits you have to help you be present with your client/co-worker/family.
 - Pick one missed opportunity for validation. What you could have done differently?
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 - Practice Distress Tolerance Skills - STOP, TIP, Half Smile, Willing Hands, Radical Acceptance. Notice your level of distress before and after your skills practice.

Week 3 Practice Exercises

2. Practice Emotion Regulation Skills. Notice how you were feeling before your practice. How did you feel afterward?

Choose 2 to share with the group.

3. Identify 1 pleasant activity or event you would like to add in your life. List 3 steps you will take to make this happen.

What will it take? What will get in the way?

Thoughts/Questions

Questions between sessions:

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