TRAUMA-INFORMED BEST PRACTICES ACTIVITIES



Activity 7.3

Let's SIFT!

Objective:

• Practice the SIFT (Sensations, Images, Feelings, Thoughts) Technique.

Steps:

- 1. Explain that the purpose of this activity is to take a moment to calm the brain.
- 2. Invite participants to close their eyes if they choose to do so.
- 3. Guide the participants:
 - o Register your sensations. Is your heart raising?
 - Identify the images that are running through your head in this moment. Do they relate to past experiences? Are they valid?
 - Name your feelings related to your thoughts and images.
 - Observe and identify your thoughts.

4. Discuss:

- This technique was originally created for parents and other adults to calm their brains before speaking to their children.
- With time and practice, brains can be rewired through repetition. This
 rewiring of the brain is called neuroplasticity.
- o How can this practice be helpful when working with students?