

# **Medicated Children and Adolescents in Play Therapy: Teaching Play Therapists about the Intersection of Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology**

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**Alabama Association for Play Therapy**

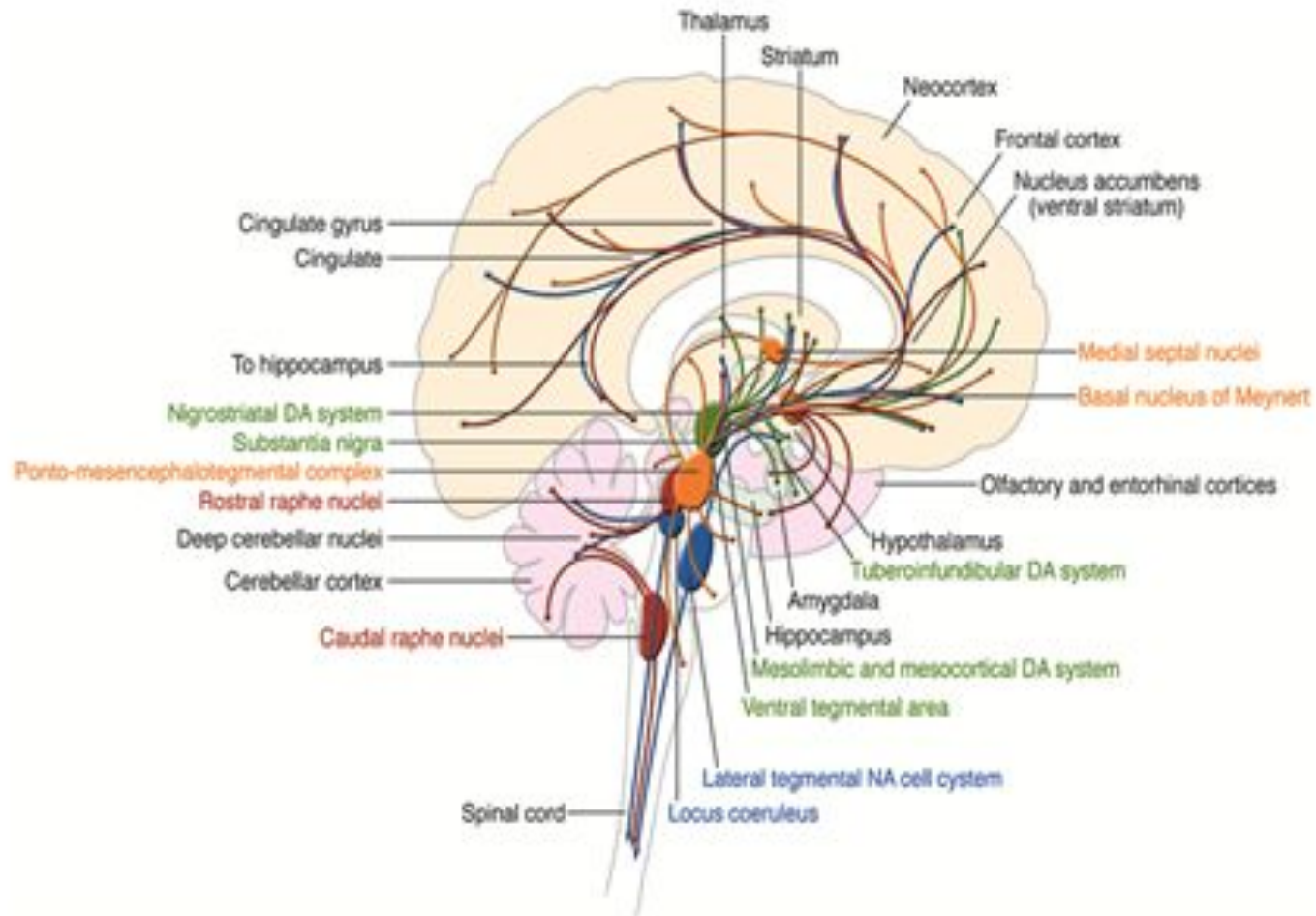
**8:30 am-4:30 pm**

# Goals for Today

Following the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Discuss basic neurobiology, neurotransmitters, and brain functioning.
- Identify different medications and their mechanisms of action.
- Discuss the interaction of neurobiology, medication, and Play Therapy.
- Identify how beneficial effects of medication may facilitate Play Therapy.
- Utilize Play Therapy techniques to compensate for the side effects of medications.
- Develop an individualized Play Therapy plan for each medicated child.

# Brain Complexities

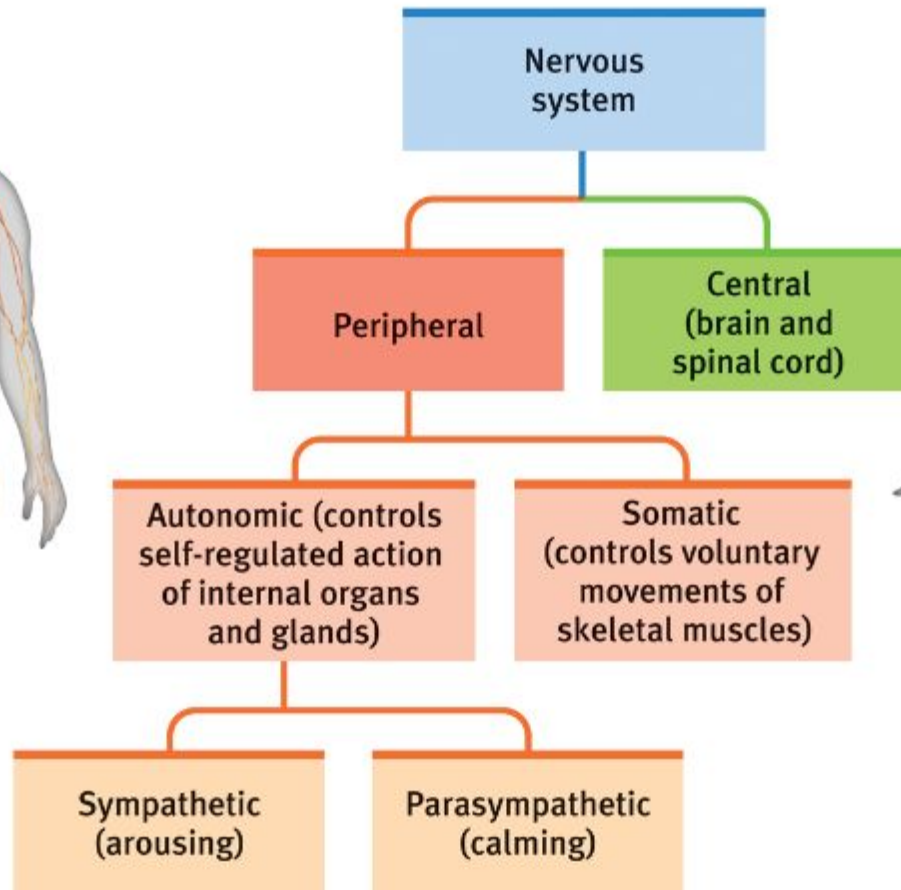


# Nervous System

Peripheral nervous system



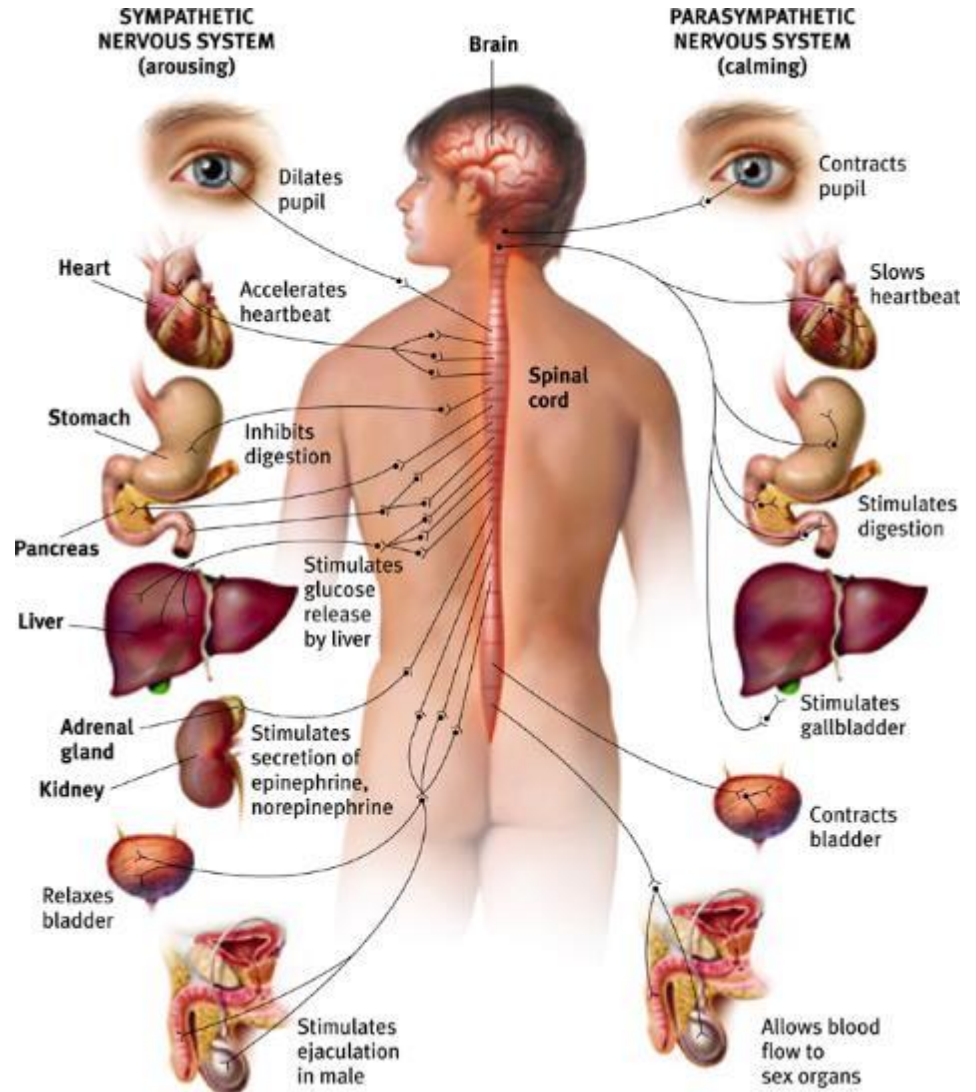
Central nervous system



# Nervous System (cont)

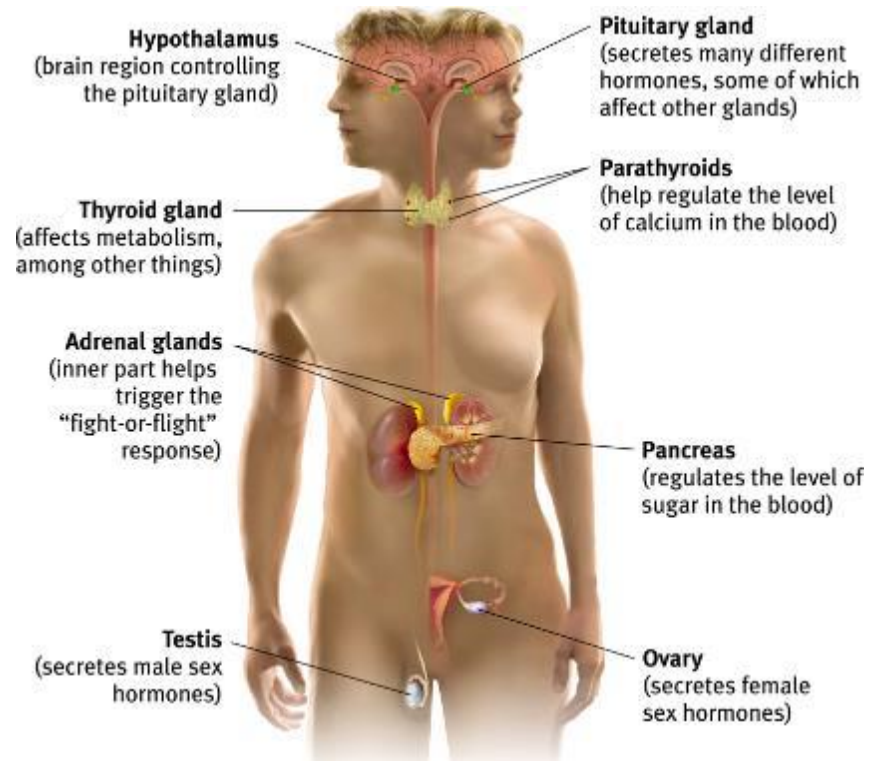
Sympathetic NS  
Arouses  
(fight-or-flight)

Parasympathetic  
NS  
Calms  
(rest and digest)

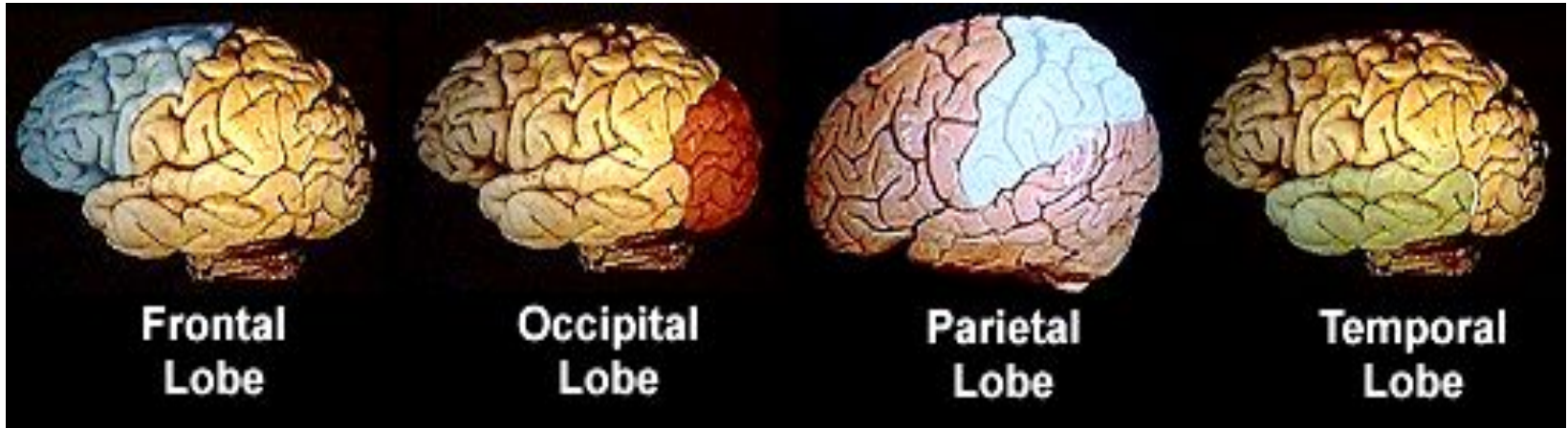


# Endocrine System

The Endocrine System is the body's slow chemical communication system. Communication is carried out through hormones synthesized by a set of glands.



# The Basic Brain



**Frontal  
Lobe**

Self-regulation,  
problem solving,  
goal setting, &  
social cognition

**Occipital  
Lobe**

Vision and  
perception

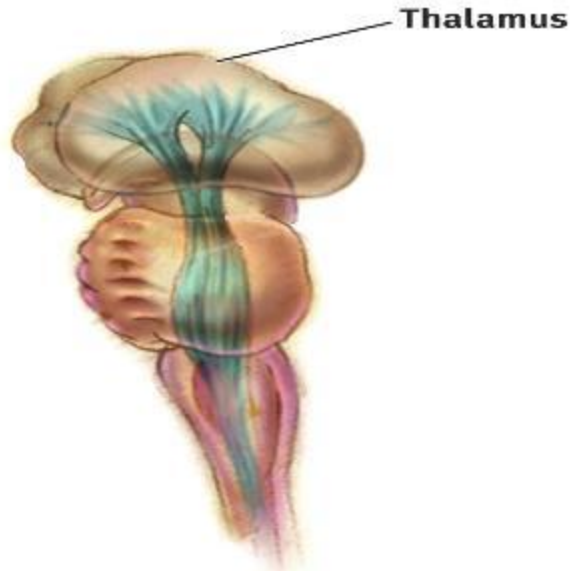
**Parietal  
Lobe**

Sensory motor  
perception, &  
spatial abilities

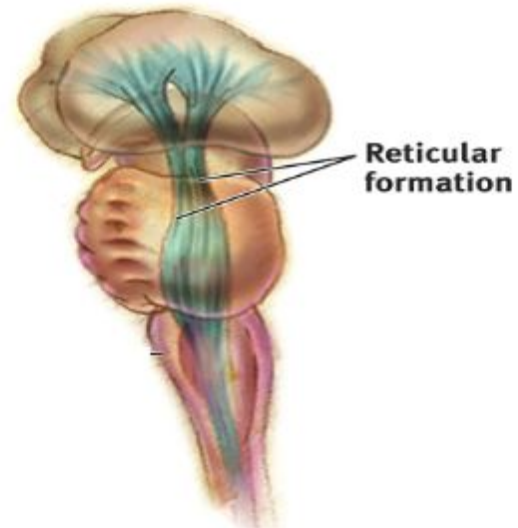
**Temporal  
Lobe**

Hearing,  
language,  
memory, &  
social emotional  
function

# Brainstem



The **Thalamus** [THAL-uh-muss] is the brain's sensory switchboard, located on top of the brainstem. It directs messages to the sensory areas in the cortex and transmits replies to the cerebellum and medulla.

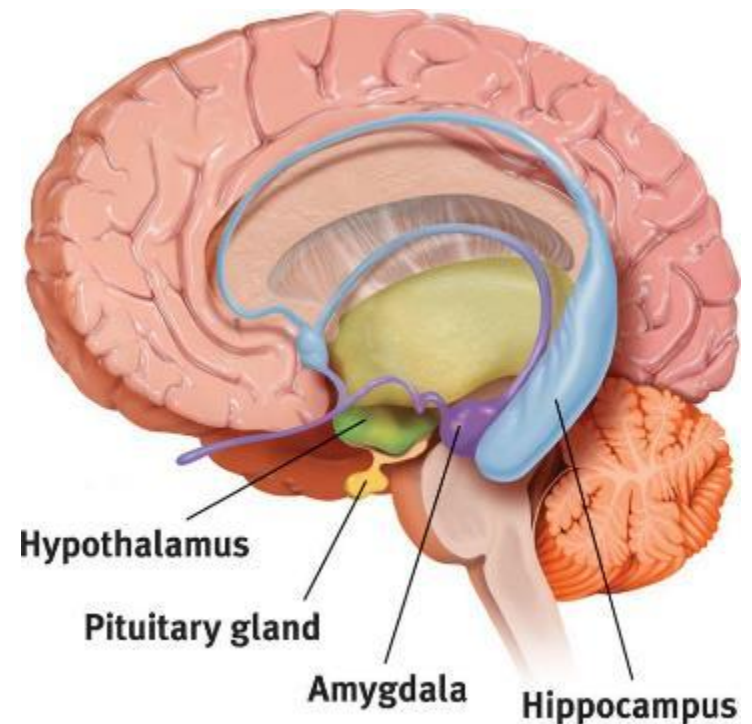


**Reticular Formation** is a nerve network in the brainstem that plays an important role in controlling arousal.



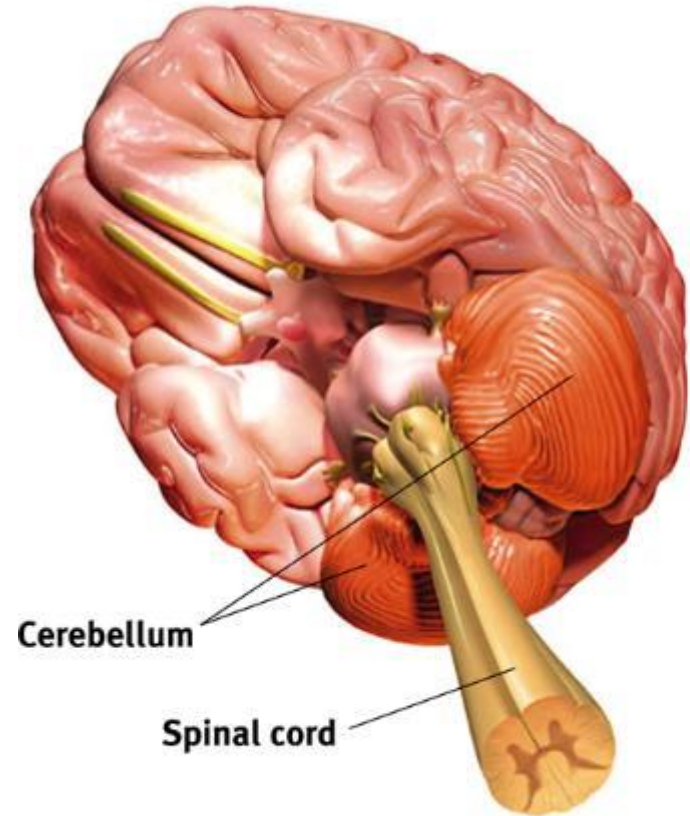
# The Limbic System

The **Limbic System** is a doughnut-shaped system of neural structures at the border of the brainstem and cerebrum, associated with emotions such as fear, aggression and drives for food and sex. It includes the hippocampus, amygdala, and hypothalamus.



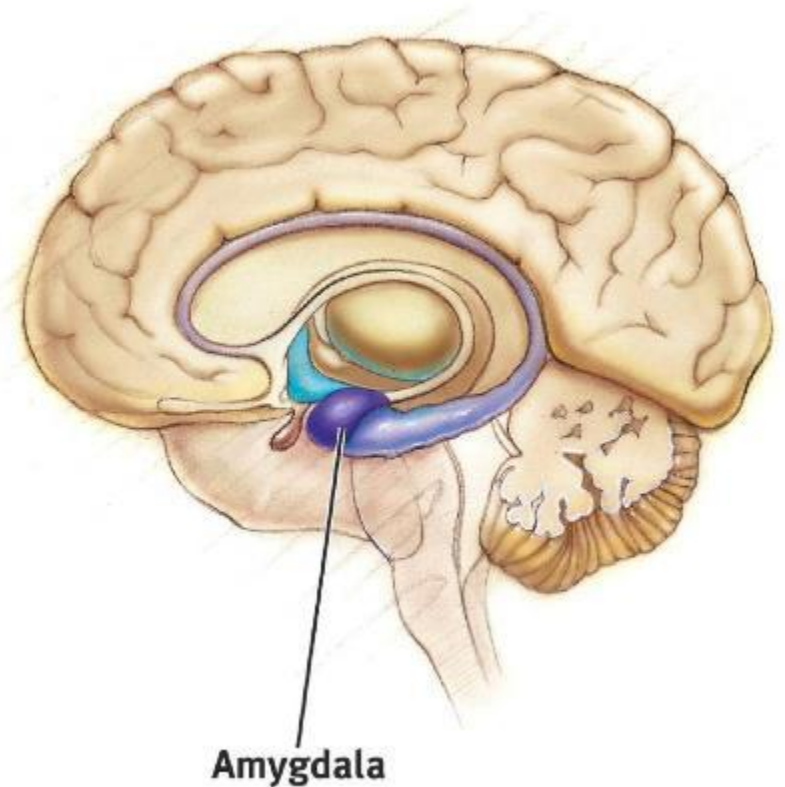
# Cerebellum

The “little brain” attached to the rear of the brainstem. It helps coordinate voluntary movements and balance.



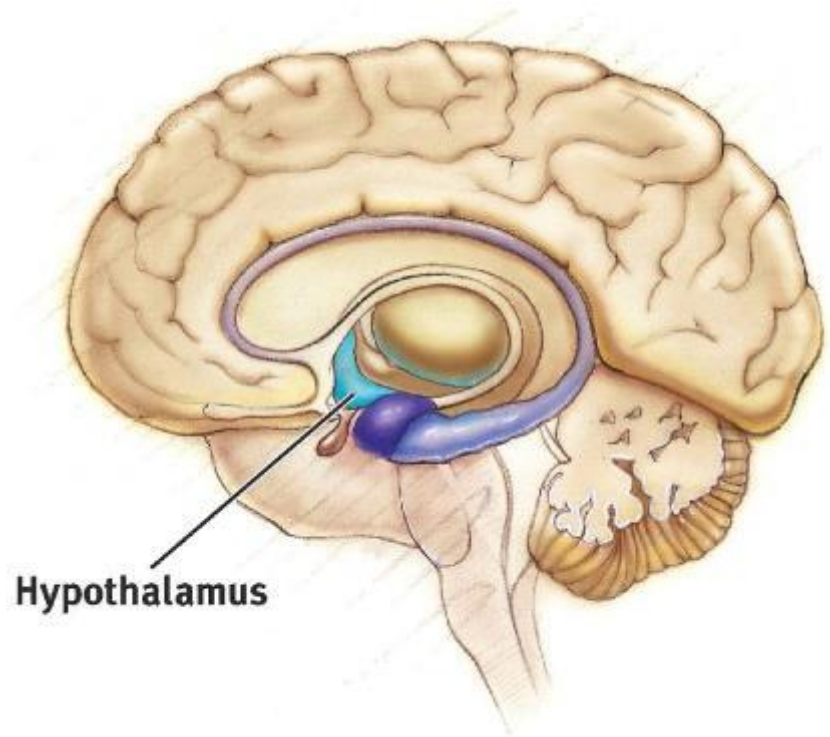
# Amygdala

The **Amygdala** [ah-MIG-dah-la] consists of two lima bean-sized neural clusters linked to the emotions of fear and anger.



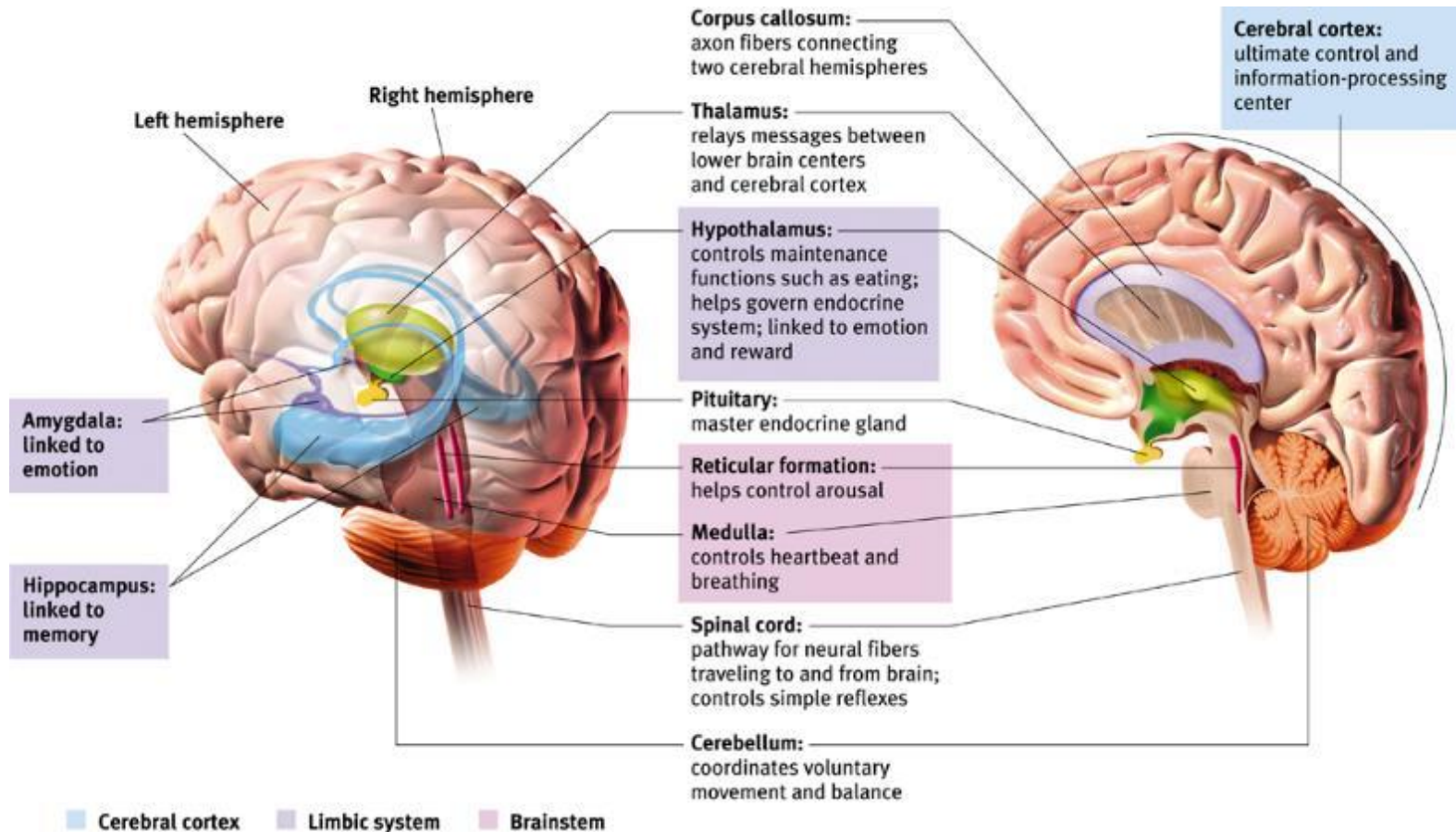
# Hypothalamus

The **Hypothalamus** lies below (*hypo*) the thalamus. It directs several maintenance activities like eating, drinking, body temperature, and control of emotions. It helps govern the endocrine system via the pituitary gland.



# The Cerebral Cortex

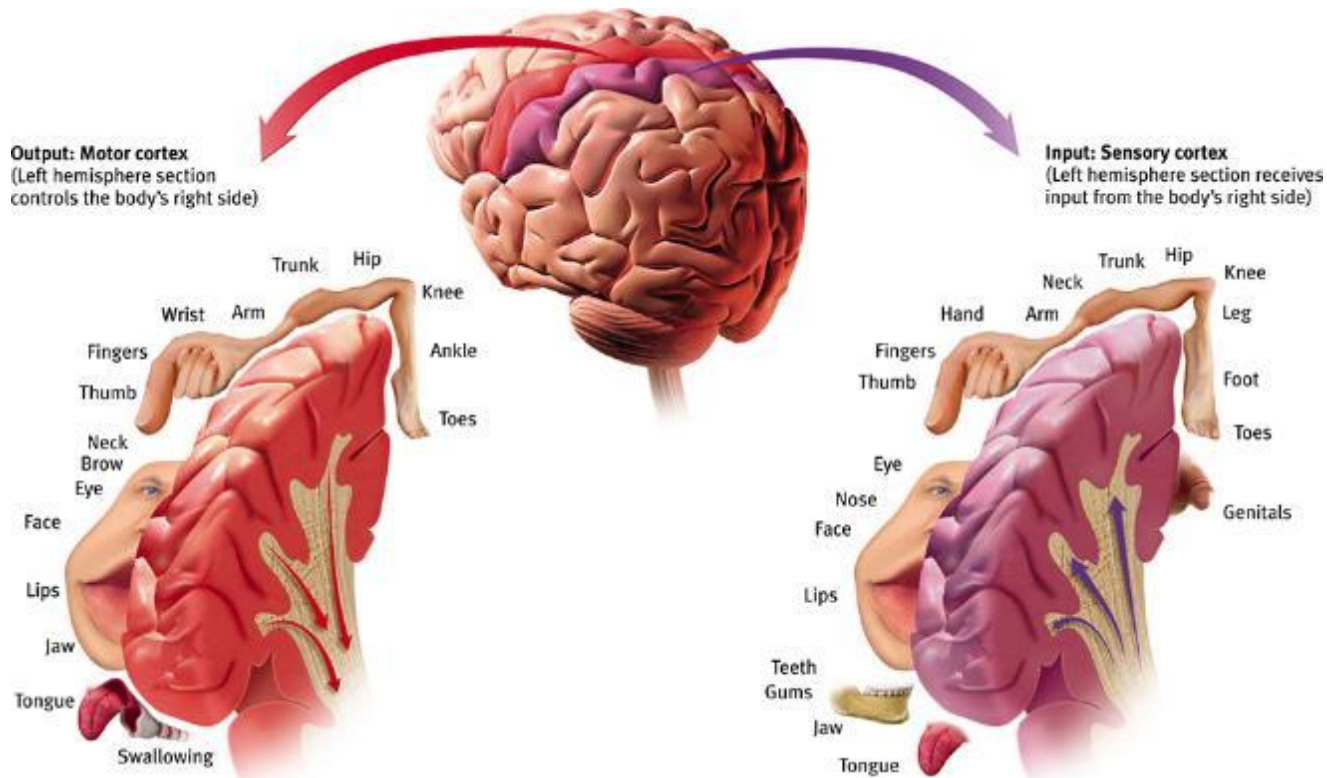
The intricate fabric of interconnected neural cells that covers the cerebral hemispheres. It is the body's ultimate control and information processing center.



# Functions of the Cortex

The **Motor Cortex** is the area at the rear of the frontal lobes that control voluntary movements.

The **Sensory Cortex** (parietal cortex) receives information from skin surface and sense organs.



# Brain Growth

AGE	BRAIN WEIGHT (GRAMS)
20 WEEKS GESTATION	100
BIRTH	400
18 MONTHS	800
3 YEARS OLD	1100
ADULT	1300 - 1400

# Brain Changes

At birth, most neurons the brain will have are present  
(**approx. 100 billion neurons**)

By age 2 years, brain is 80% of adult size

What keeps growing?

Other brain cells (glia)

New neuron connections

**approx. 1000 trillion connections by age 3 yrs.**



## **Brain Changes (cont)**

Overproduction of neurons and connections among neurons

Selective reduction of neurons and connections among neurons

Waves of intense branching and connecting followed by reduction in neurons

Before birth through 3-years-old

Again at 11- or 12-years-old

## **Brain Changes (cont)**

Anatomical studies of brain development show

Occipital lobes show earliest pruning

Frontal and Temporal lobes show growth of neural connections longer than other areas of the brain...through 3 years old

Frontal and Temporal lobes show pruning of connections longer than other areas of the brain

Greatest change between 2 years and 5 years

# **Brain Changes (cont)**

## **Myelin & Age Changes**

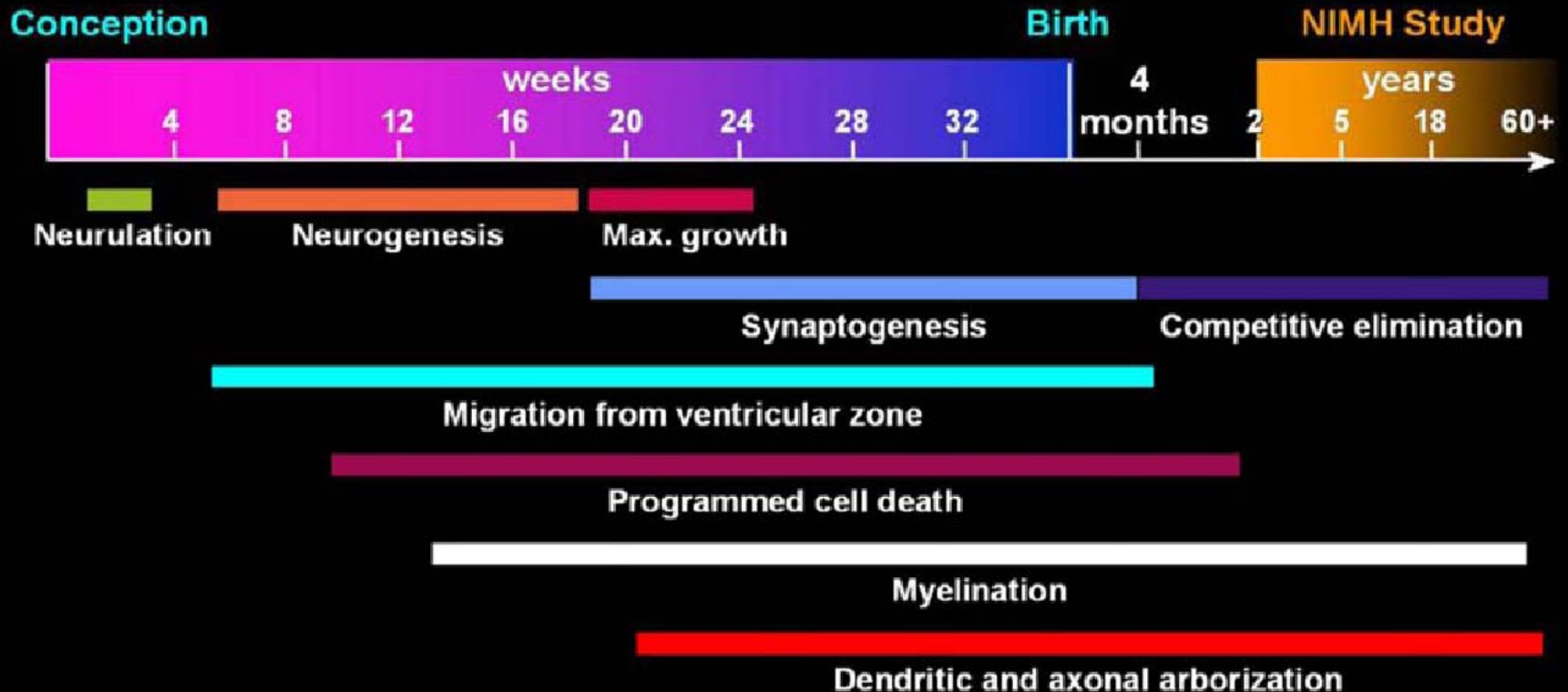
Speed of connection and conductivity

Begins at birth, rapidly increases to 2-years old

Continues to increase more slowly through 30-years-old

# Brain Changes - Critical Events (Toga & Mazziotta, 2000)

## Time Course of Critical Events in the Determination of Human Brain Morphometry



# Brain Changes and Important Developments

Brain areas with longest periods of organization related to...

self-regulation,

problem-solving,

language/communication

Social bonding

Most vigorous growth, pruning, connecting, and activity occurs between **1-1/2 years through 3 or 4 years old.**

May be one of the most important periods for developing self-regulation, problem-solving, social-emotional, and language/communication behaviors.

# Impacting Brain Development

Genes form neurons, connections among major brain regions.

Environment and experience refines the connections; enhancing some connections while eliminating others.

Brain development is “activity-dependent”

Every experience excites some neural circuits and leaves others alone.

Neural circuits used over and over strengthen, those that are not used are dropped resulting in “pruning”.

Medication ??????????????????????

# Brain Areas and Anatomical Development

- Brainstem (0-1)--Regulation of arousal, sleep, and fear
- Diencephalon (1-3)--Integration of sensory input and fine motor skills
- Limbic System (3-8)--Emotional states and emotional regulation, social language, interpretation of non-verbals
- Cortical Areas (8-adult)--Abstract cognitive functioning, integration of socio-emotional information

# Brain Areas and Anatomical Development

- Brain stem and Diencephalon are harder to change if poorly developed.



# Normal Development and Regulation

**Consider:**

The Individual

Attachments

Relationships

Culture

Environment

Genetics

**Produces Functional & Regulated Affect/Behavior**



# **“DIR” Model (Greenspan & Wieder, 1997; Willis, 2007)**

Developmental bio-psychosocial model

Developmentally-based

Individual differences

Relationship focused

# **Functional Emotional Developmental Levels** (Greenspan & Wieder, 1997)

2-3 mon **Shared Attention**

3-5 mon **Engagement**

6-9 mon **2-way Intentional Communication**

12-18 mon **Behavioral Elaboration**

Complex, non-verbal, gestural  
communication patterns

24-36 mon **Representational Communication**

Ideas, Words

36-48 mon **Emotional Thinking**

Linking ideas and thoughts

# **Individual Differences**

## **Sensory Processing systems**

## **Cortical processing systems**

- Auditory
- Visual-spatial
- Intelligence
- Memory system

## **Motor output processes**

# **Relational Context in Early Childhood**

## **Parent – Child Interactions**

Patterns of Attachment, Cooperation, Conflict-doing, conflict-resolution Regulation of negative & positive affects, Intimacy communication.

## **Sibling and Peer Relationships**

Birth order, Sibling spacing, Cooperation patterns, Conflict processes, Peer experiences and opportunities.

# **Relational Context in Early Childhood**

## **Socio-Emotional Co-Regulation**

Co-regulation of emotions

– Separation anxiety & fears, Anger & frustrations,  
Disappointment

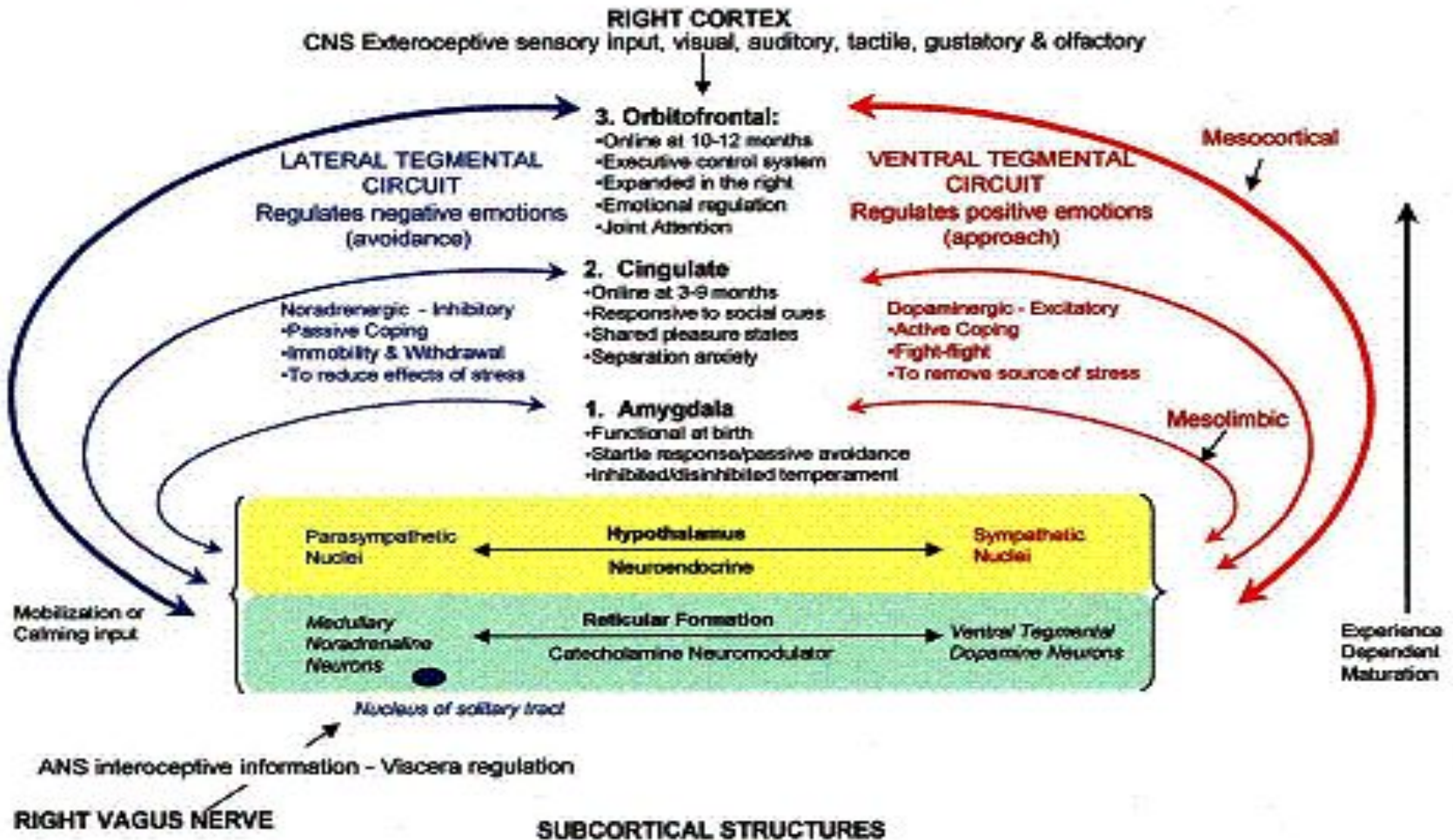
Intimate available relational individual

## **Cultural Patterns**

Parenting styles, Childcare variations, Social units & Multiple  
early relationships, Older children involvement in child-rearing,  
Imitative roles, Toys and play

# Adaptive Functioning (Shore, 2001, 2009)

## SCHORE'S RIGHT BRAIN DUAL CORTICOLIMBIC-AUTONOMIC CIRCUITS



# The Right Brain

The right brain, according to Schore (2000 and 2009b)

is comprised of a

- lateral tegmental circuitry, which controls negative emotions, avoidance mechanisms, and passive coping
- a ventral tegmental circuitry, which controls positive emotions, approach mechanisms, and active coping



# Order of Activation

- The autonomic nervous system, providing sensory information;
- amygdala, which generates fight, flight, and freeze responses;
- cingulate, which interprets social cues;
- orbitofrontal cortex, which provides executive control.

# The Ventral System

Schore (2000, 2009b) states, when attachment is disrupted or fails to occur (i.e., lacks appropriate stimulation), it is the ventral tegmental circuitry that is impacted by dysfunctional patterns of relating; hence, the approach process is disrupted and avoidance process goes unaffected.

# What's Functional?

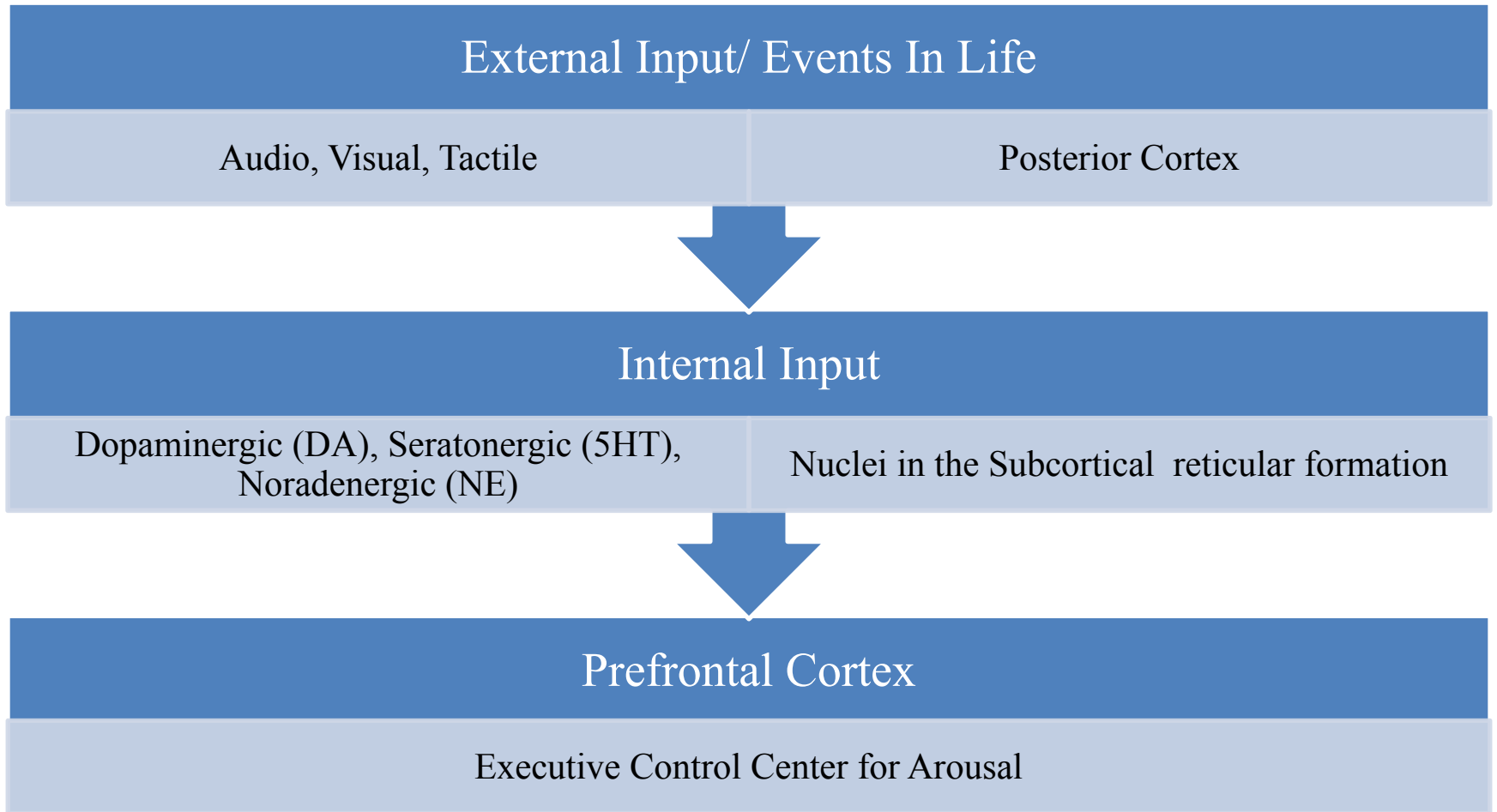
## 3 Types of Self-Regulation

- Emotional Self-Regulation--between self and caregiver (self & other).
- Behavioral Self-Regulation--the ability to initiate/inhibit behavior appropriate to context.
- Sensory Modulation--the ability to regulate one's reactivity (responsiveness) to sensory input.

# Neurobiology and Attachment

- Secure Attachment- a person capable of emotional self-regulation and has the ability to cope with stress
- Secure Attachment in Neurobiological Formation: healthy, consistent, and complete development of the orbitofrontal cortex, ventromedial prefrontal cortex, and connections in to subcortical regions of the brain.

# Attachment Neurobiology Process



# Polyvagal Theory

The more primitive branch elicits immobilization behaviors (e.g., feigning death), whereas the more evolved branch is linked to social communication and self-soothing behaviors.

# Polyvagal Theory

- The vagus nerve is a component of the autonomic nervous system
- Originates in the medulla
- Two (2) branches
- Associated with a different adaptive behavioral strategy
- Inhibitory in nature via the parasympathetic nervous system
- The vagal system is in opposition to the sympathetic-adrenal system, which is involved in mobilization behaviors

# Polyvagal Theory

## Dorsal branch

- unmylenated
- primal survival strategies
- freezing

## Ventral branch

- Mylenated
- A sophisticated system of behavioral and affective responses to an increasingly complex environment
- Regulates of the sympathetic “fight or flight”
- Social Communication, Calming, Self-soothing
- Can inhibit or disinhibit the limbic system



# **Okay, So Let's Consider Dysfunction and Dysregulation?**

The Dysregulated Brain Has a Mind of Its Own!!!!!!

## **What's Leads to Dysfunction?**

- Abnormal Development
- Attachment Disturbances
- Direct Physical Brain Trauma

# Abnormal Development and Dysregulation

**Consider:**

The Individual

Attachments

Relationships

Culture

Environment

Genetics

**Produces Dysfunctional & Dysregulated Affect/Behavior**



# Attachment Trauma/Disturbances

- Impairments in the development of the orbitofrontal and ventral prefrontal areas.
- Lead to:
  - Attachment Disorders (Insecure/ Disorganized)
    - High risk for PTSD and relational violence
  - Chronic Disturbance in Affect Regulation (Axis 2)
  - Chronic Stress (Anxiety, Depression)

## **Right Brain Development: Affect Regulation (Schore, 2001)**

- Amygdala inhibition by orbitofrontal regions
- “Amygdala hijacking” – fight response
- Hippocampus memory systems and Autonomic Nervous System (ANS)
- Consequences of Trauma
  - Poor affect regulation

# Traumatic Brain Injury

Childhood illnesses (high fevers, meningitis)

Accidents or Physical Abuse

???? Medications ???????

# The Neurochemical Origins of Disruptive Behaviors

- Those related to dopamine [DA] and aggression, irritability, hyperactivity, and problems with attention and motivation;
- Those related to norepinephrine [NE] and negative emotions and withdrawal;
- Those related to serotonin [5HT] and impulsivity.
- A fourth category, gamma-aminobutyric acid [GABA], is not usually responsible for disruptive behaviors, but may be involved in regulating these behaviors.

# Disruptive Behaviors, Neurotransmitters, and Brain Regions

- Emotional regulation is connected to the limbic system and prefrontal cortex (Wise, 2004) and is facilitated by DA and NE pathways.
- Motivation is connected to the striatum and prefrontal cortex (Aarts, van Holstein, & Cools, 2011) and is facilitated by DA pathways.
- Attention and hyperactivity are connected to the lateral prefrontal cortex, dorsal anterior cingulate cortex, caudate, & putamen (Bush, Valera, & Seidman, 2005) and are facilitated by DA and NE pathways.

# Disruptive Behaviors, Neurotransmitters, and Brain Regions (cont)

- Impulsivity is connected to the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, orbitofrontal cortex, and anterior cingulate cortex (Adinoff et al., 2003; Royall et al., 2002) and is facilitated by DA and 5HT (Dagher & Robbins, 2009).
- Finally, the previously mentioned neurotransmitters are excitatory in nature, while GABA is inhibitory in nature and connected to all levels of the central nervous system (Levy & Degan, 2012).



# **Another Point**

**We Now Have a Big Problem!**

# **The ACE Study** (Anda et al., 2005; CDC, 1998-2010; Edwards et al., 2005)

Adverse childhood experiences are the most basic cause of health risk behaviors, morbidity, disability, mortality, and healthcare costs

Traumatic events----Prolonged alarm reaction-----Altered neural systems

Altered cardiovascular regulation

Behavioral impulsivity

Increased anxiety

Increased startle response

Sleep abnormalities

# CDC (1998-2010)

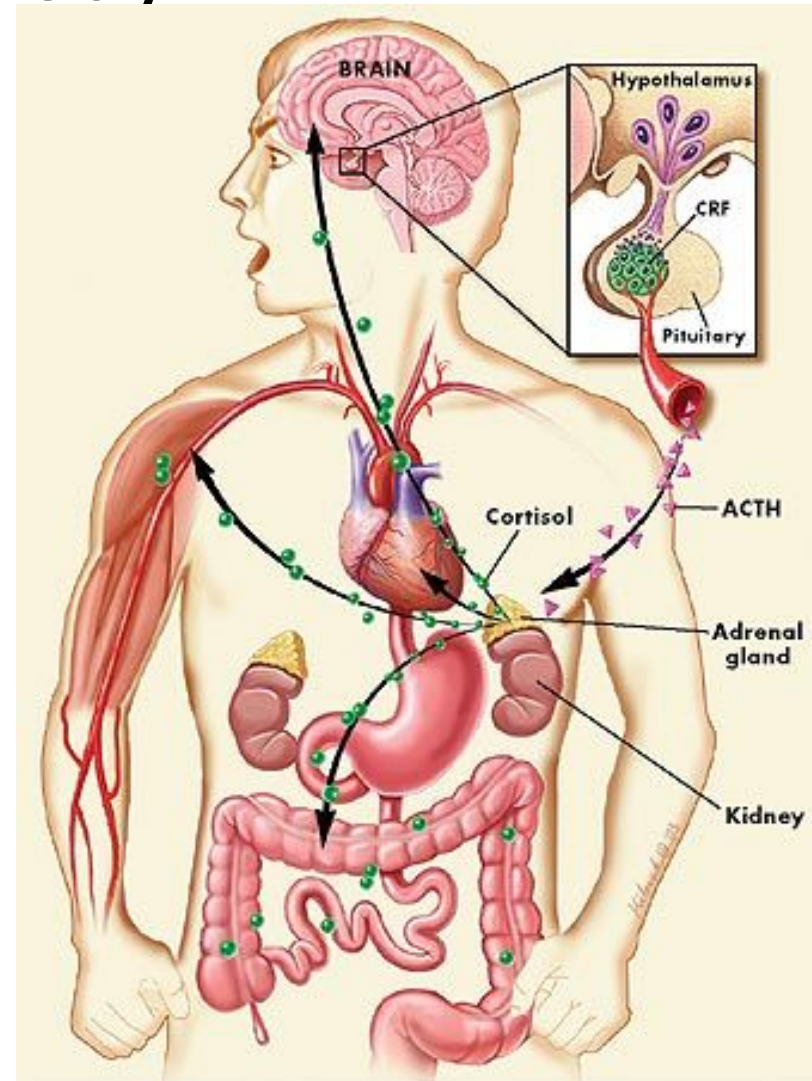


# Stress, the Brain, & the Body

Stress is the set of changes in the body and the brain that are set into motion when there are threats to physical or psychological

Under threat, the limbic system engages and the frontal lobes disengage. When safety returns, the limbic chemical reaction stops and the frontal lobes re-engage.

**(van der Kolk, B., 2005)**



# Three Levels of Stress Response

## Positive

Brief increases in heart rate,  
mild elevations in stress hormone levels.

## Tolerable

Serious, temporary stress responses,  
buffered by supportive relationships.

## Toxic

Prolonged activation of stress response systems  
in the absence of protective relationships.

# **Early Childhood Disturbances from Trauma and Risk (ACE Study)**

Regulatory disturbances

PTSD

Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Conduct Disorder

ADHD

Anxiety and Depression

Attachment disturbances

Developmental delays

# The Continuum

Attachment Disturbance

ADHD, Bipolar Disorder

Oppositional Defiant

Conduct Disorder

Personality Disorder



# What's The Point?

We Now Have a Neurobiological Maze, Which is Difficult to Solve?

And

Medications Can Simplify the Maze or Complicate Maze!



# Neurotransmitters

**Categorized into three major groups:**

- (1) amino acids (glutamic acid, GABA, & glycine)
- (2) peptides (vasopressin, somatostatin, & neurotensin)
- (3) monoamines (norepinephrine NA, dopamine DA & serotonin 5-HT) plus acetylcholine (ACh).

Workhorse neurotransmitters of the brain are glutamic acid (glutamate) and GABA.

# Neurotransmitters & Function

Acetylcholine - voluntary movement of the muscles, learning, & memory

Norepinephrine – alertness, wakefulness, & arousal

Dopamine - voluntary movement, emotional arousal, & learning, attention

Serotonin - memory, emotions, wakefulness, sleep, hunger, & temperature regulation

GABA (gamma aminobutyric acid) - motor behavior & mood

Glutamate - memory

Glycine - spinal reflexes & motor behavior

Neuromodulators - sensory transmission-especially pain

# Neurotransmitter (Excitation vs. Inhibition)

## EXCITATORY

Acetylcholine

Aspartate

Dopamine

Histamine

Norepinephrine

Epinephrine

Glutamate

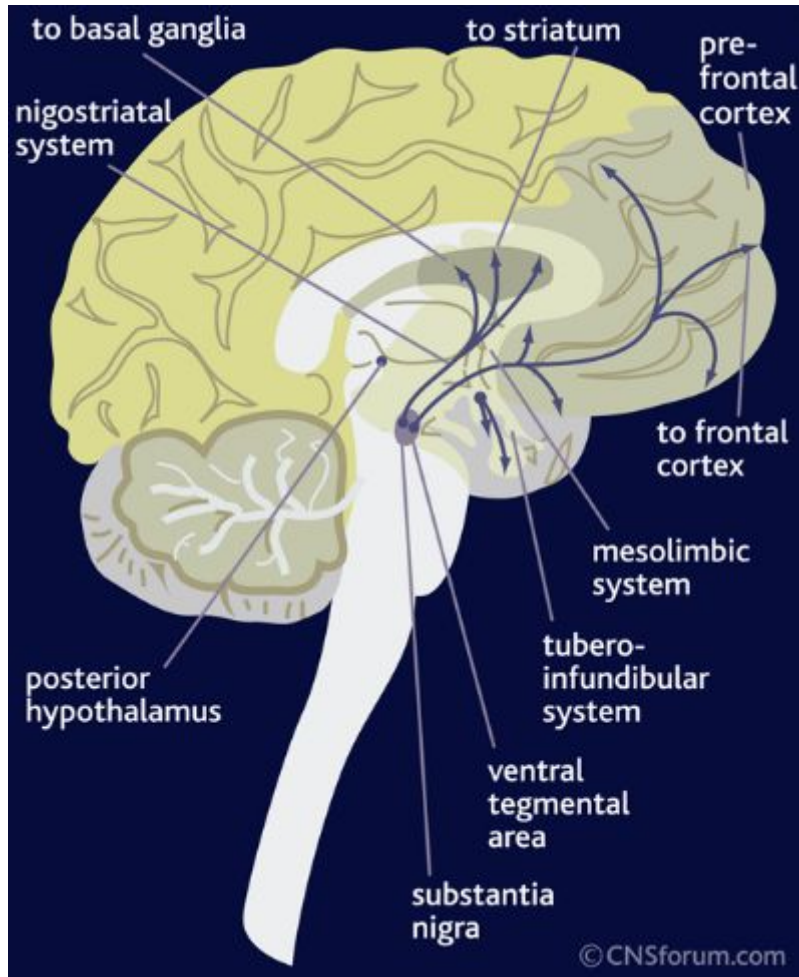
Serotonin

## INHIBITORY

GABA

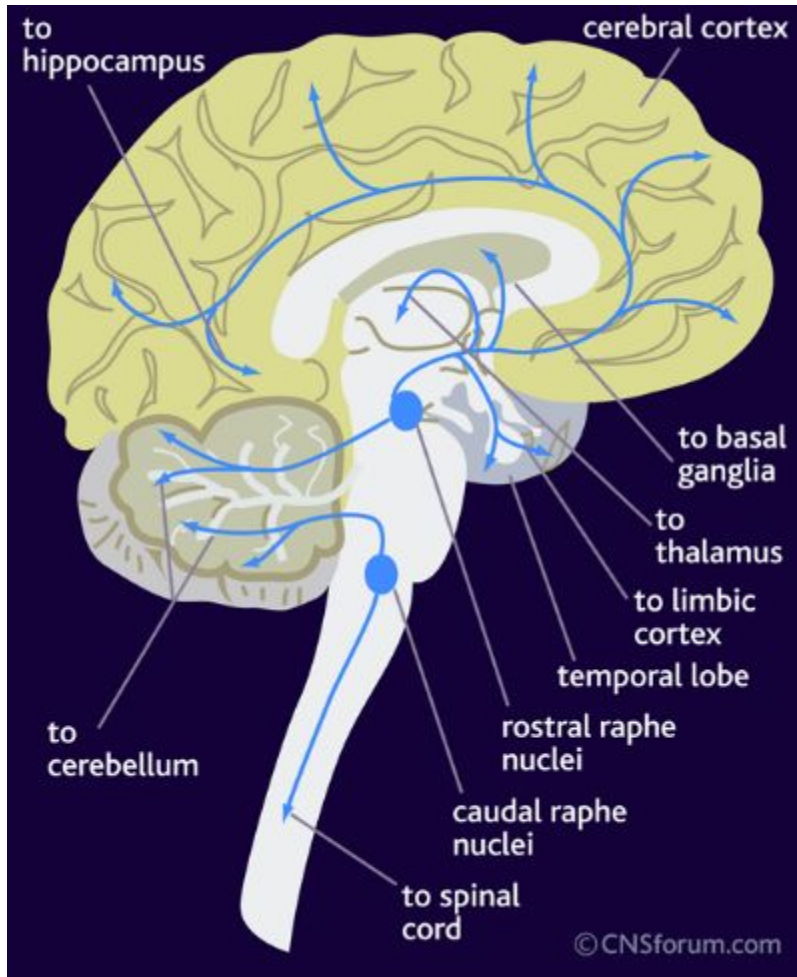
Glycine

# Dopamine (DA)



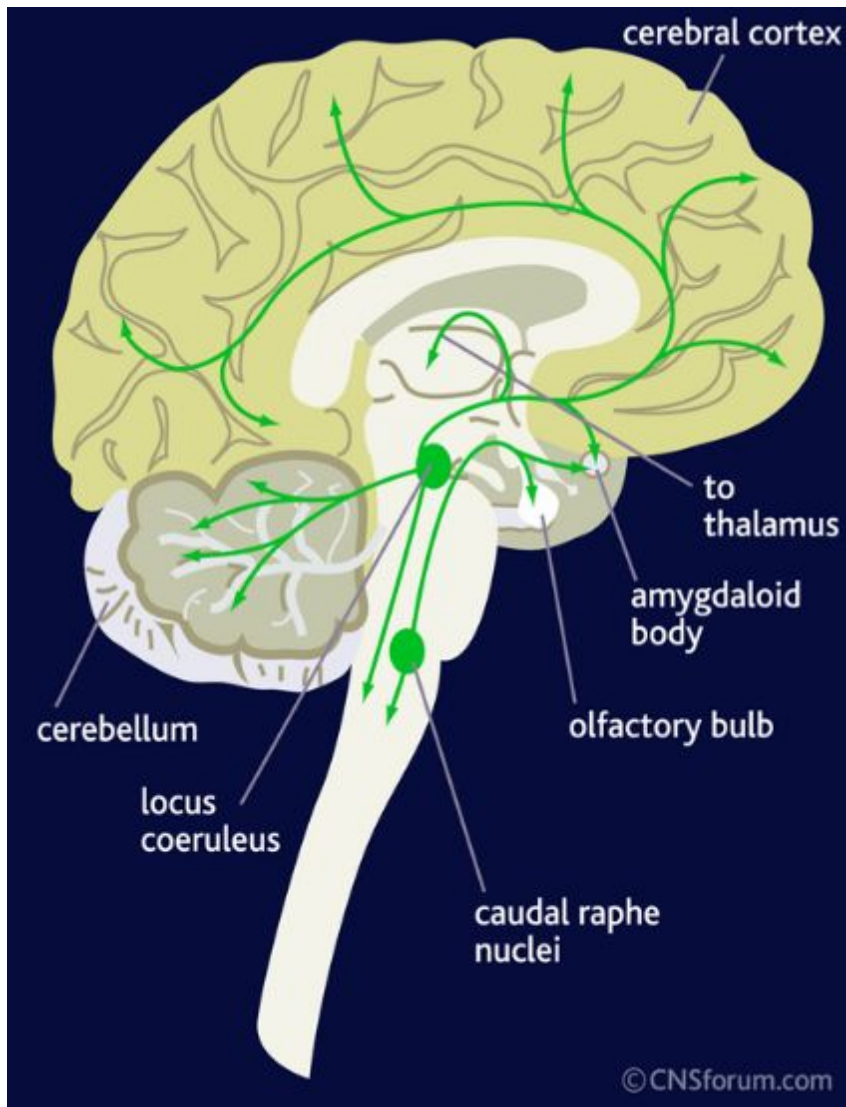
**Dopamine** is transmitted via three major pathways. The first extends from the substantia nigra to the caudate nucleus-putamen (neostriatum) and is concerned with sensory stimuli and movement. The second pathway projects from the ventral tegmentum to the mesolimbic forebrain and is thought to be associated with cognitive, reward and emotional behavior. The third pathway, known as the tubero-infundibular system, is concerned with neuronal control of the hypothalamic-pituitary endocrine system.

# Serotonin (5-HT)



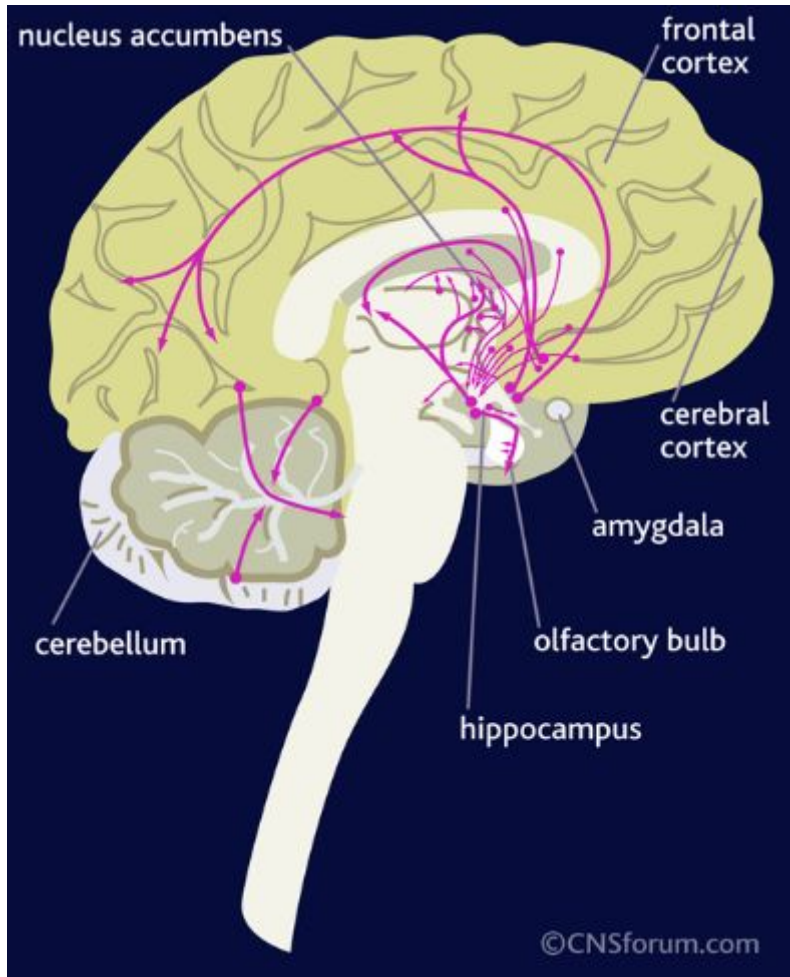
The principal centers for **serotonergic** neurons are the rostral and caudal raphe nuclei. From the rostral raphe nuclei axons ascend to the cerebral cortex, limbic regions and specifically to the basal ganglia. Serotonergic nuclei in the brain stem give rise to descending axons, some of which terminate in the medulla, while others descend the spinal cord.

# Norepinephrine (NE)



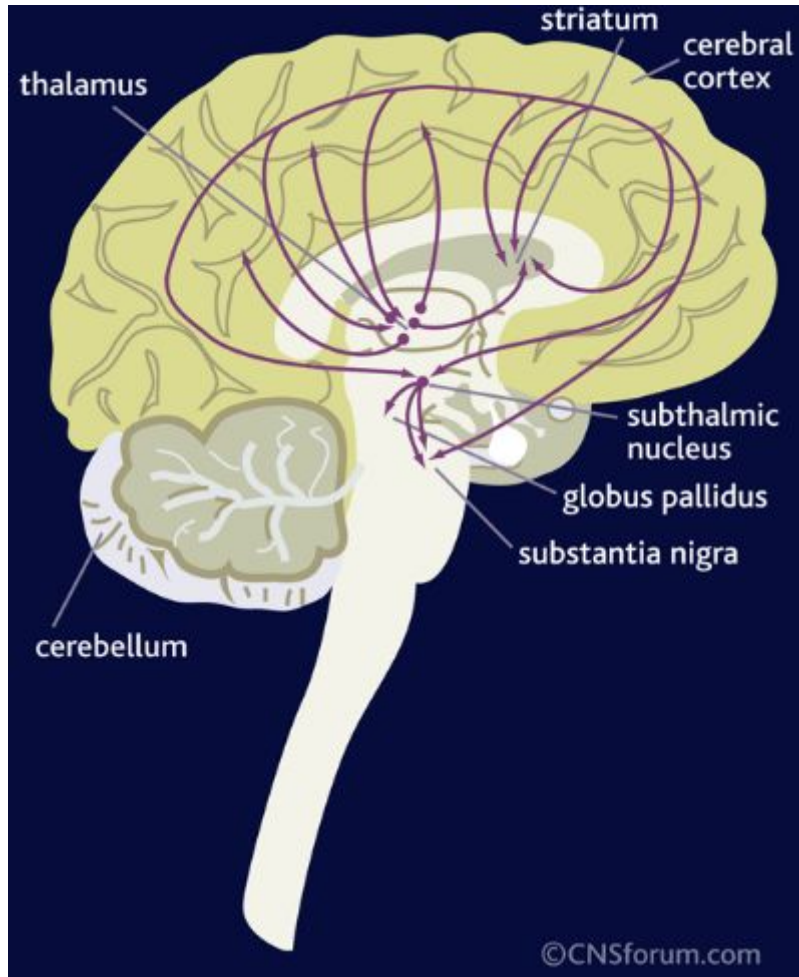
Many regions of the brain are supplied by the **noradrenergic** systems. The principal centers for noradrenergic neurons are the locus coeruleus and the caudal raphe nuclei. The ascending nerves of the locus coeruleus project to the frontal cortex, thalamus, hypothalamus and limbic system. Noradrenaline is also transmitted from the locus coeruleus to the cerebellum. Nerves projecting from the caudal raphe nuclei ascend to the amygdala and descend to the midbrain.

# Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)



**GABA** is the main inhibitory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system (CNS). GABAergic inhibition is seen at all levels of the CNS, including the hypothalamus, hippocampus, cerebral cortex and cerebellar cortex. As well as the large well-established GABA pathways, GABA interneurons are abundant in the brain, with 50% of the inhibitory synapses in the brain being GABA mediated.

# Glutamate

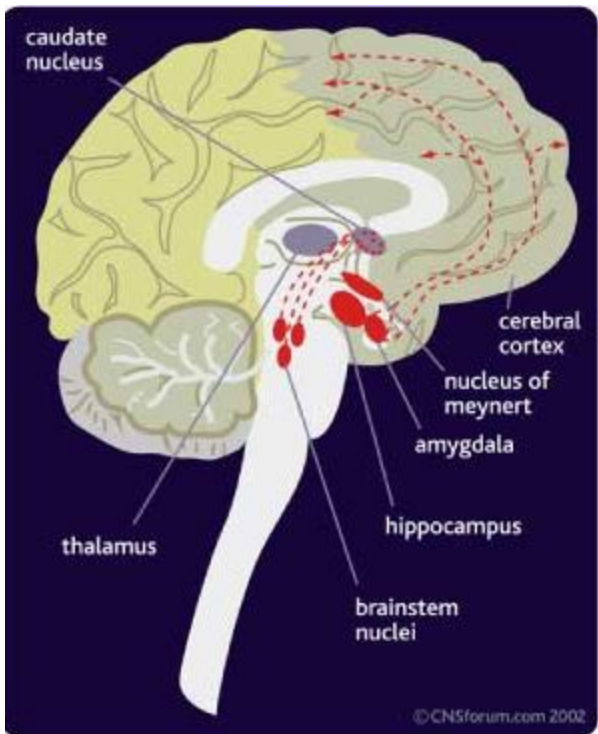


In the normal brain the prominent **glutamatergic** pathways are: the cortico-cortical pathways; the pathways between the thalamus and the cortex; and the extrapyramidal pathway (the projections between the cortex and striatum). Other glutamate projections exist between the cortex, substantia nigra, subthalamic nucleus and pallidum. Glutamate-containing neuronal terminals are ubiquitous in the central nervous system and their importance in mental activity and neurotransmission is considerable.



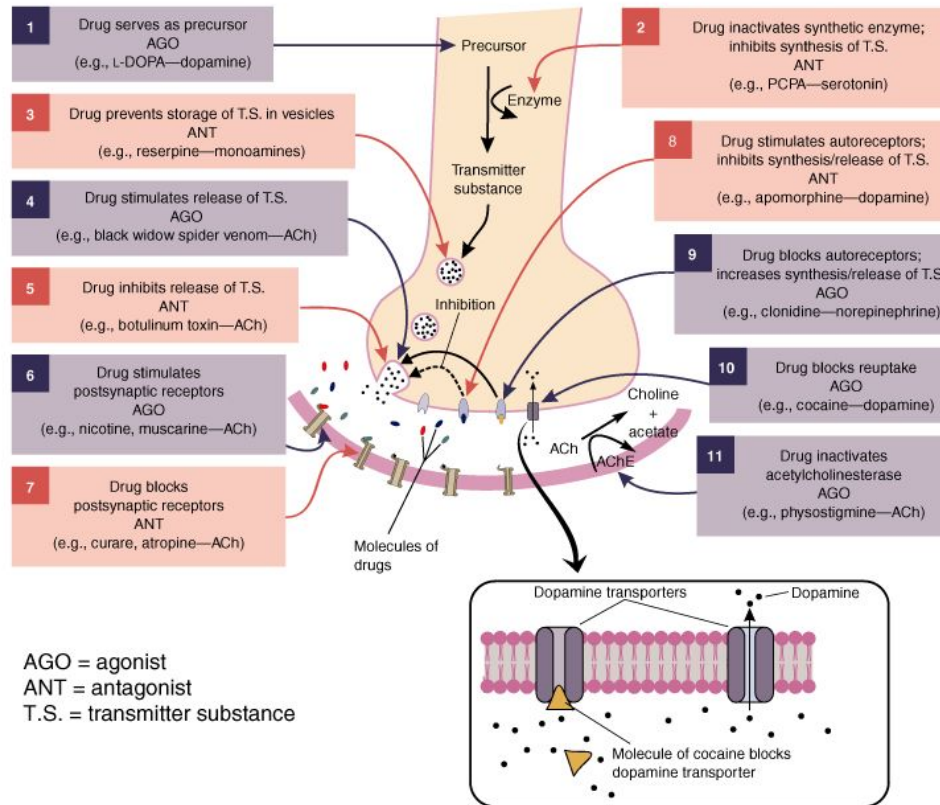
# Acetylcholine (ACh)

There are three **Acetylcholine** pathways in the CNS. (a) The Pons to thalamus and cortex, (b) Magnocellular forebrain nucleus to cortex, & (c) Septohippocampal. In the central nervous system, ACh has a variety of effects as a neuromodulator upon plasticity, arousal and reward. ACh has an important role in the enhancement of sensory perceptions when we wake up and in sustaining attention. ACh has also been shown to promote REM sleep



# Transmission

## ► Summary of the Ways Drugs Affect the Synaptic Transmission



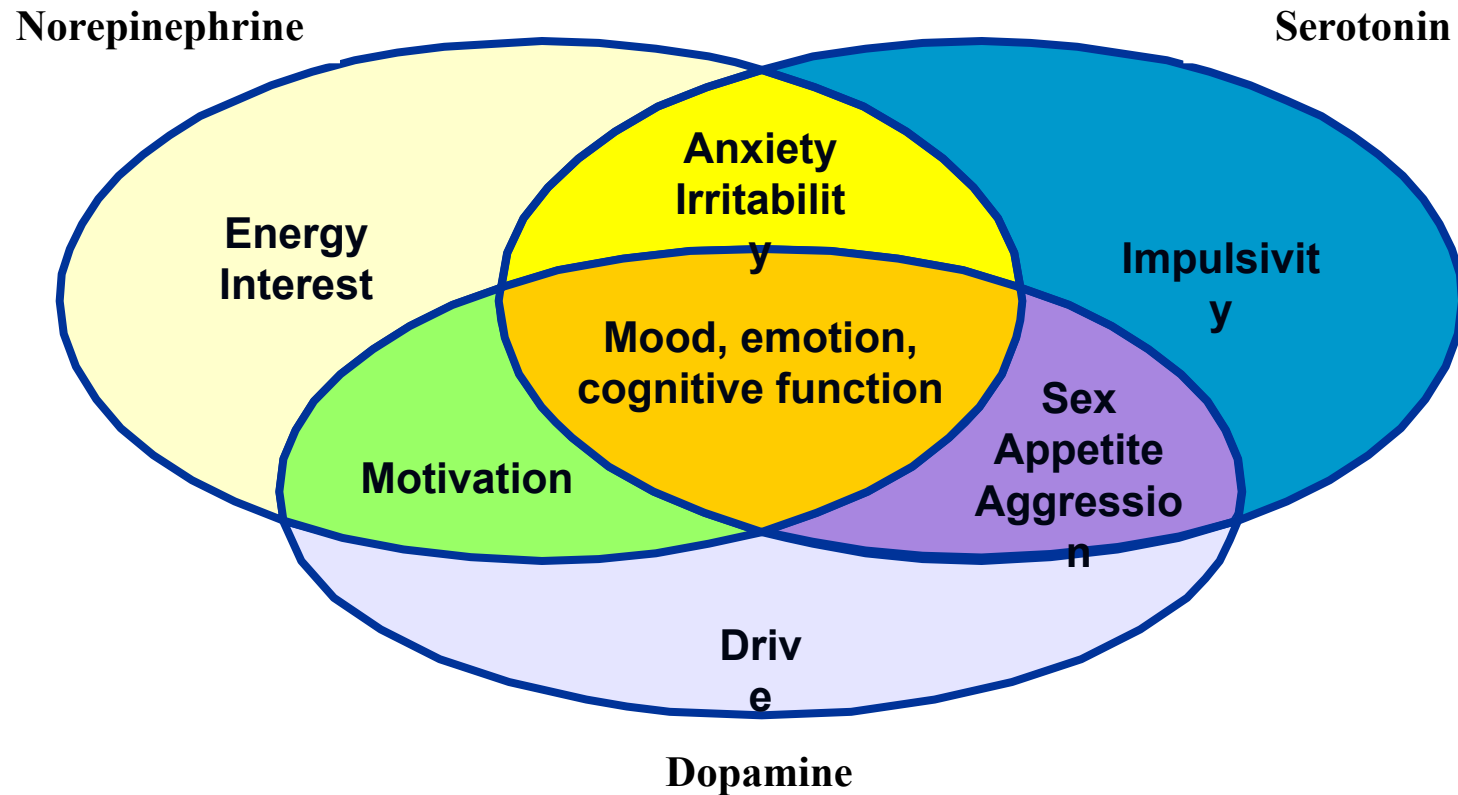
# Research, Use, & Age

- >6 months –diazepam (Valium), chlorpromazine (Thorazine)
- >2 yrs –Valproate (Depakene), lamotrigine (Lamictal) (for seizures)
- >3 yrs – hydroxyzine (Atarax), dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine)
- >5yrs- imipramine (Tofranil) (for enuresis)
- >5 yrs –risperidone (Risperdal), autistic disorder with irritability
- >6 yrs – atomoxetine (Strattera), methylphenidate (Ritalin), sertraline (Zoloft)

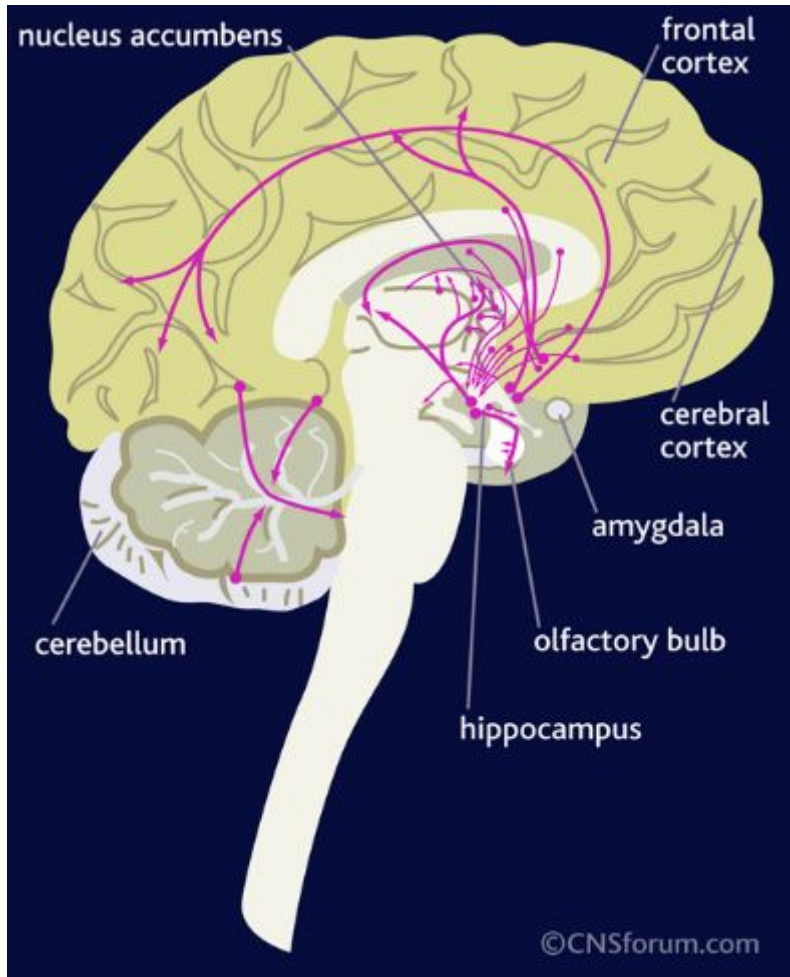
## Research, Use, & Age (cont)

- >7yrs- fluoxetine (Prozac)
- >8yrs- fluvoxamine (Luvox)
- >10 yrs –risperidone, bipolar mania
- >13 yrs-risperidone, Schizophrenia
- >12 yrs old – thiothixene (Navane), molindone (Moban), perphenazine (Trilafon), Clonidine (Catapres), Lithium, lorazepam (Ativan), amitryptiline (Elavil)
- Unspecified – thioridazine (Mellaril), trifluoperazine (Stelazine), carbamazepine (Tegretol)

# Several Neurotransmitters Are Involved in Regulating Mood



# Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)



**GABA** is the main inhibitory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system (CNS). GABAergic inhibition is seen at all levels of the CNS, including the hypothalamus, hippocampus, cerebral cortex and cerebellar cortex. As well as the large well-established GABA pathways, GABA interneurons are abundant in the brain, with 50% of the inhibitory synapses in the brain being GABA mediated.

# **Antianxiety Agents**

## **GABA receptors**

Valium (diazepam)

Ativan (lorazepam)

Klonopin (clonazepam)

Xanax (alprazolam)

# **Antianxiety Agents (cont)**

## **Valium/Ativan/Klonopin/Xanax**

Clumsiness

Sleepiness

Dizziness

Irritability

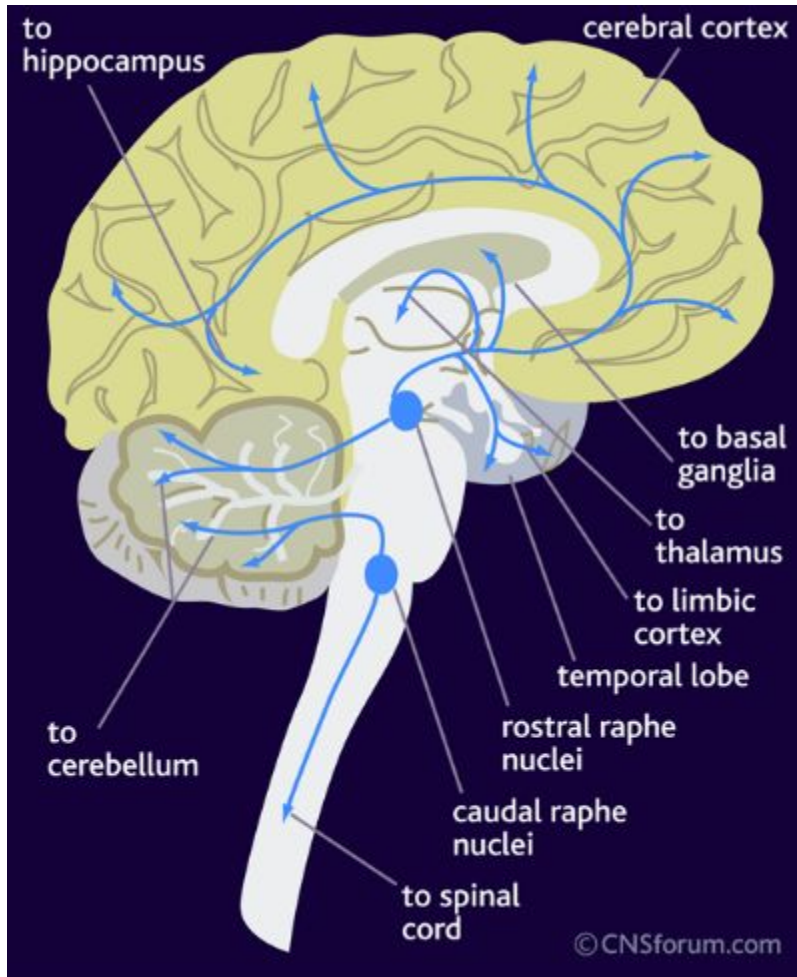
Unsteadiness

Confusion

Problems with memory



# Serotonin (5-HT)



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# **Antianxiety Agents (cont)**

## **5HT Receptors**

Buspar (buspirone)

## **MISC (MOA unknown)**

Atarax (hydroxyzine HCl)

Vistaril (hydroxyzine pamoate)

# **Antianxiety Agents (cont)**

## **5HT**

### **Buspar**

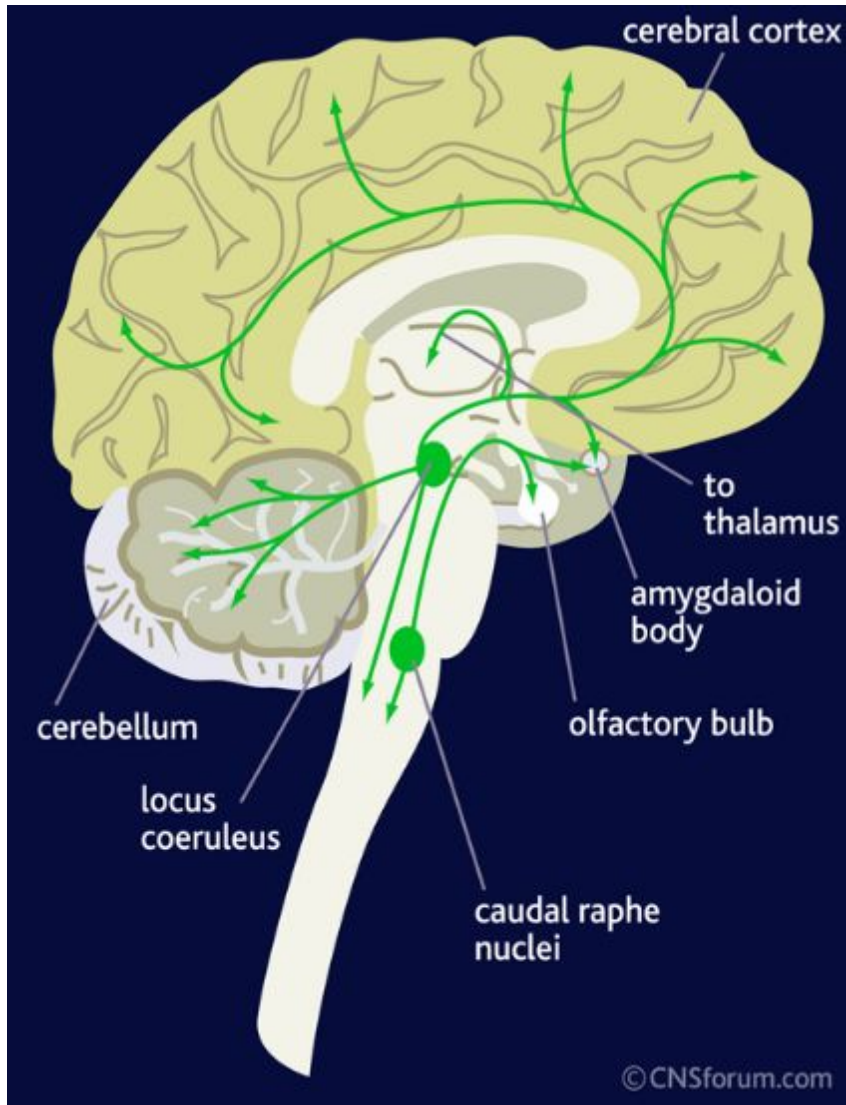
Confusion, Dizziness, Disinhibition, Drowsiness

## **MISC**

### **Atarax/Vistaril**

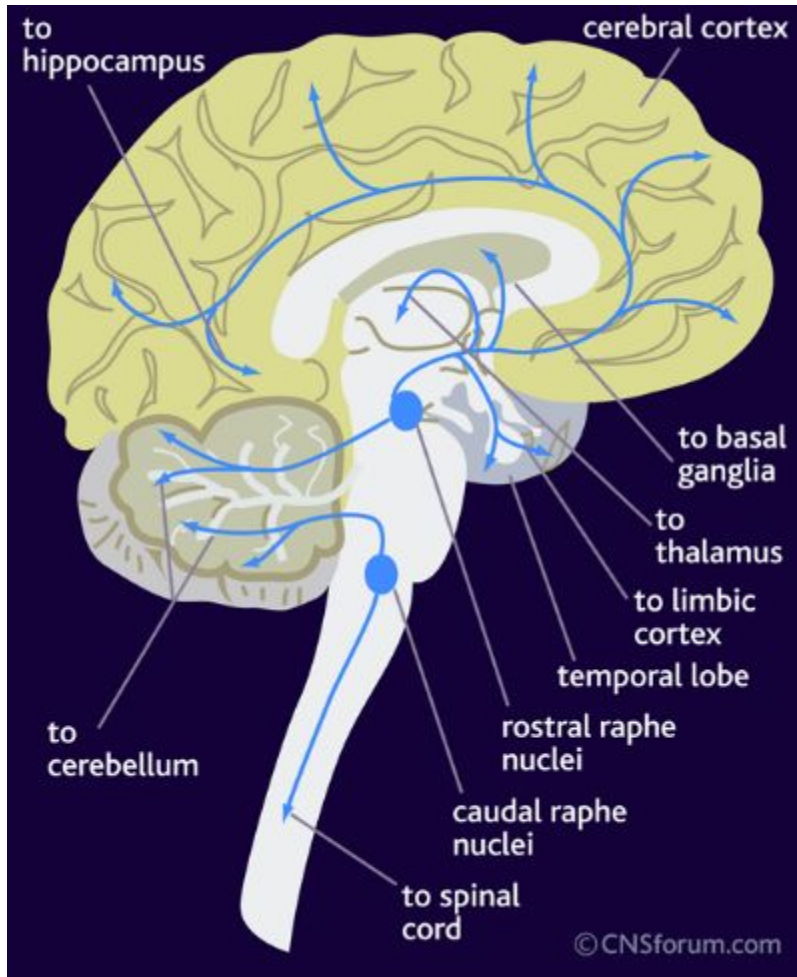
Cognitive Impairments, Sedation, Blurred Vision

# Norepinephrine (NE)



Many regions of the brain are supplied by the **noradrenergic** systems. The principal centers for noradrenergic neurons are the locus coeruleus and the caudal raphe nuclei. The ascending nerves of the locus coeruleus project to the frontal cortex, thalamus, hypothalamus and limbic system. Noradrenaline is also transmitted from the locus coeruleus to the cerebellum. Nerves projecting from the caudal raphe nuclei ascend to the amygdala and descend to the midbrain.

# Serotonin (5-HT)



The principal centers for **serotonergic** neurons are the rostral and caudal raphe nuclei. From the rostral raphe nuclei axons ascend to the cerebral cortex, limbic regions and specifically to the basal ganglia. Serotonergic nuclei in the brain stem give rise to descending axons, some of which terminate in the medulla, while others descend the spinal cord.

# Antidepressants

## **TCA (NE and/or 5HT reuptake presynaptic)**

Elavil (amitriptyline)

Asendin (amoxapine)

Anafranil (clomipramine)

Norpramin (desipramine)

Sinequan (doxepin)

Tofranil (imipramine)

Pamelor/Aventyl (nortriptyline)

Vivactil (protriptyline)

Surmontil (trimipramine)

# **Antidepressants (cont)**

## **TCA**

### **Elavil/Tofranil/Pamelor**

Fatigue

Drowsiness/Insomnia

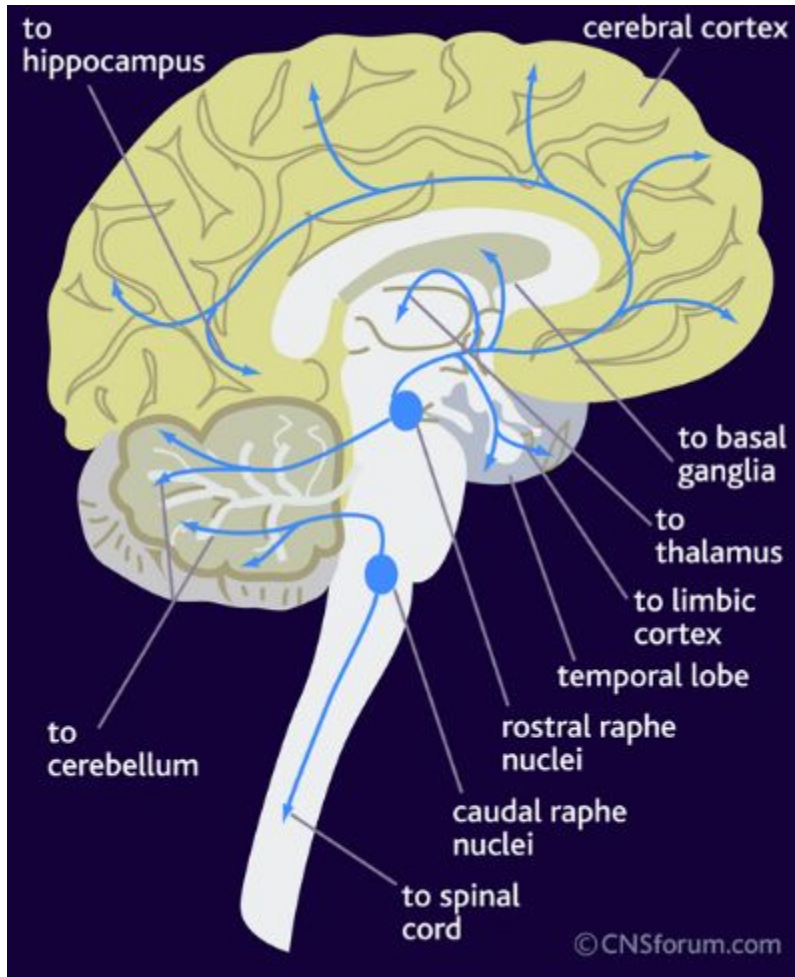
Mild Tremors

Nightmares

Restlessness

Confusion

# Serotonin (5-HT)



The principal centers for **serotonergic** neurons are the rostral and caudal raphe nuclei. From the rostral raphe nuclei axons ascend to the cerebral cortex, limbic regions and specifically to the basal ganglia. Serotonergic nuclei in the brain stem give rise to descending axons, some of which terminate in the medulla, while others descend the spinal cord.



# **Antidepressants (cont)**

## **SSRI (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors)**

Celexa (citalopram)

Lexapro (escitalopram)

Prozac/Sarafem (fluoxetine)

Paxil (paroxetine)

Zoloft (sertraline)

Luvox (fluvoxamine)

Viibryd (vilazodone)

# **Antidepressants (cont)**

## **SSRI**

**Celexa/Prozac/Paxil/Zoloft/Lexapro/Viibryd**

Agitation

Nervousness

Fatigue

Sleep Problems

Vertigo

Sexual Side Effects

# **Antidepressants (cont)**

## **MAOI (monoamine oxidase inhibitors)**

Nardil (phenelzine)

Parnate (tranylcypromine)

Marplan (isocarbozide)

# **Antidepressants (cont)**

## **MAOI**

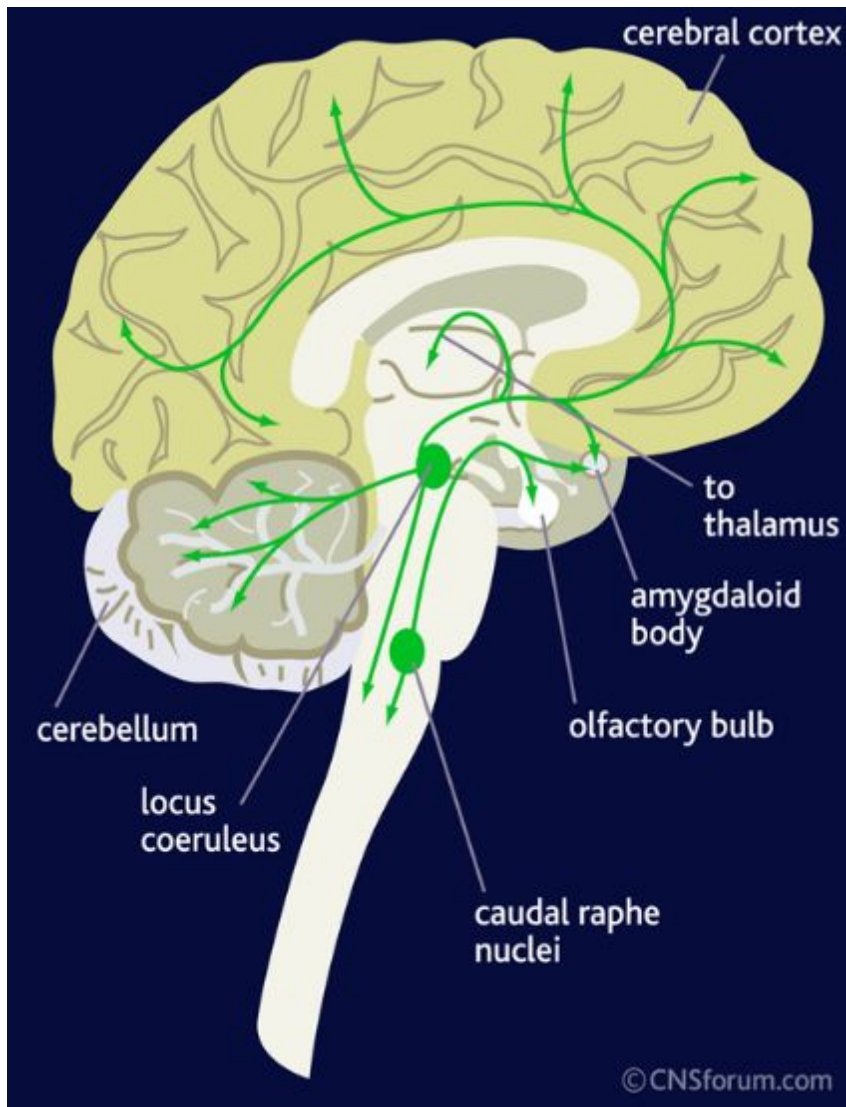
### **Nardil/Parnate/Marplan**

Dizziness

Headache

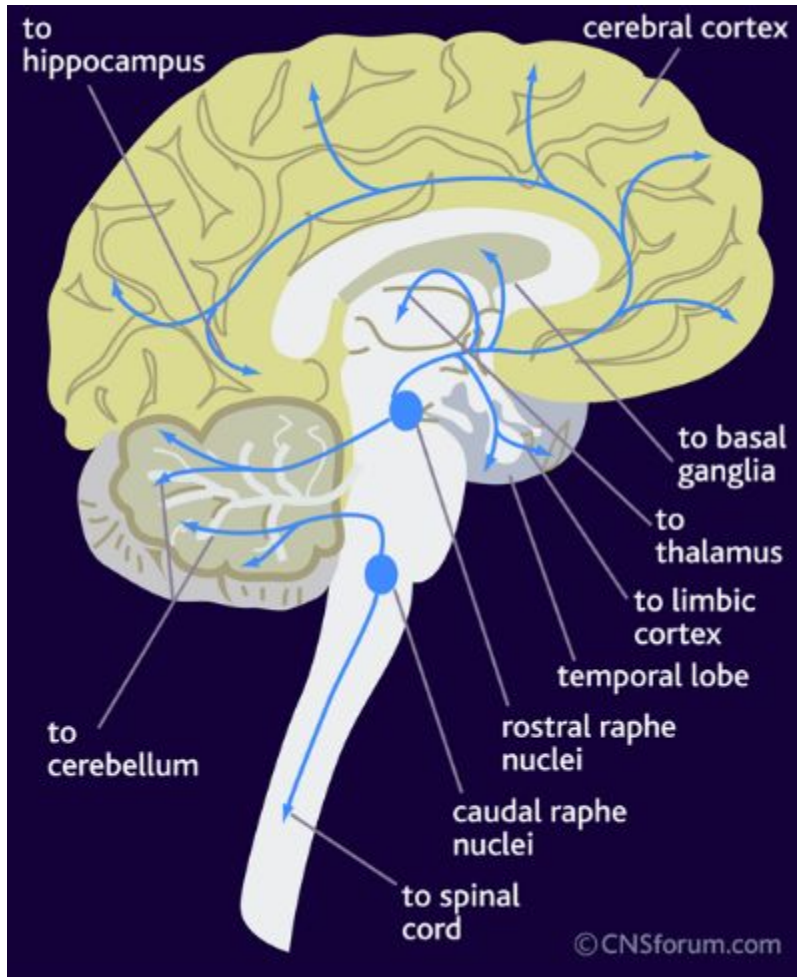
Sleep Problems

# Norepinephrine (NE)



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# Serotonin (5-HT)



The principal centers for **serotonergic** neurons are the rostral and caudal raphe nuclei. From the rostral raphe nuclei axons ascend to the cerebral cortex, limbic regions and specifically to the basal ganglia. Serotonergic nuclei in the brain stem give rise to descending axons, some of which terminate in the medulla, while others descend the spinal cord.

# **Antidepressants (cont)**

## **MISC (MOA unclear)**

Desyrel (trazodone)

Wellbutrin/Zyban (bupropion)

Effexor (venlafaxine)

Serzone (nefazodone)

Cymbalta (duloxetine)

Pristiq (desvenlafaxine)

Remeron (mirtazepine)

# **Antidepressants (cont)**

## **MISC**

**Desyrel/Wellbutrin/Effexor/Serzone/Cymbalta/  
Pristiq/Remeron**

Agitation

Drowsiness

Sleep Disturbance

Strange Dreams

Increased Blood Pressure



,

**Intake**

**Gathering Information**

**Initial Treatment Plan**

# Gathering Information

## The Initial Play Therapy Session

Observation: Medication Symptoms/Impact

Behavioral Changes

Cognitive Changes

Emotional Changes

# Intake

**Past medications:** List, in chronological order, all **psychotropic** medications the individual took in the past. If the list is long, print it separately and bring it to your appointment.

Age	Medication Name	Dose	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

# Intake

**Current medications:** List, in chronological order, all **psychotropic** medications the individual is currently taking. Don't forget about over-the-counter medications.

Age	Medication Name	Dose	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

# Medication/Behavioral/Cognitive/Emotional/Developmental Time Line

# The Initial Treatment Plan

- How will you address medication side effect(s) as part of the therapeutic process?
- Can you link a skill/activity/technique to a side effect and reduce its impact on therapy?
- What can you do to accomplish side effect reduction as well as therapeutic progress?

<b>Medication Side Effect</b>	<b>Goals/Objectives</b>	<b>Interventions</b>

# Addressing Medication Side Effects in the Treatment Plan

## **4 Presentation Types, Each Requires Something Different**

The Warm Up

The Cool Down

The Warm Up-Cool Down

The Cool Down-Cool Down



# Left and Right Brain

## **LEFT BRAIN FUNCTIONS**

uses logic  
detail oriented  
facts rule  
words and language  
present and past  
math and science  
can comprehend  
knowing  
acknowledges  
order/pattern perception  
knows object name  
reality based  
forms strategies  
practical  
safe

## **RIGHT BRAIN FUNCTIONS**

uses feeling  
"big picture" oriented  
imagination rules  
symbols and images  
present and future  
philosophy & religion  
can "get it" (i.e. meaning)  
believes  
appreciates  
spatial perception  
knows object function  
fantasy based  
presents possibilities  
impetuous  
risk taking

# **Working with Lethargy in Play Therapy**

Slow Down

Experiential Activities

Arts and Crafts

## **Working with Lethargy in Play Therapy (cont)**

**If you have an outdoor space:**

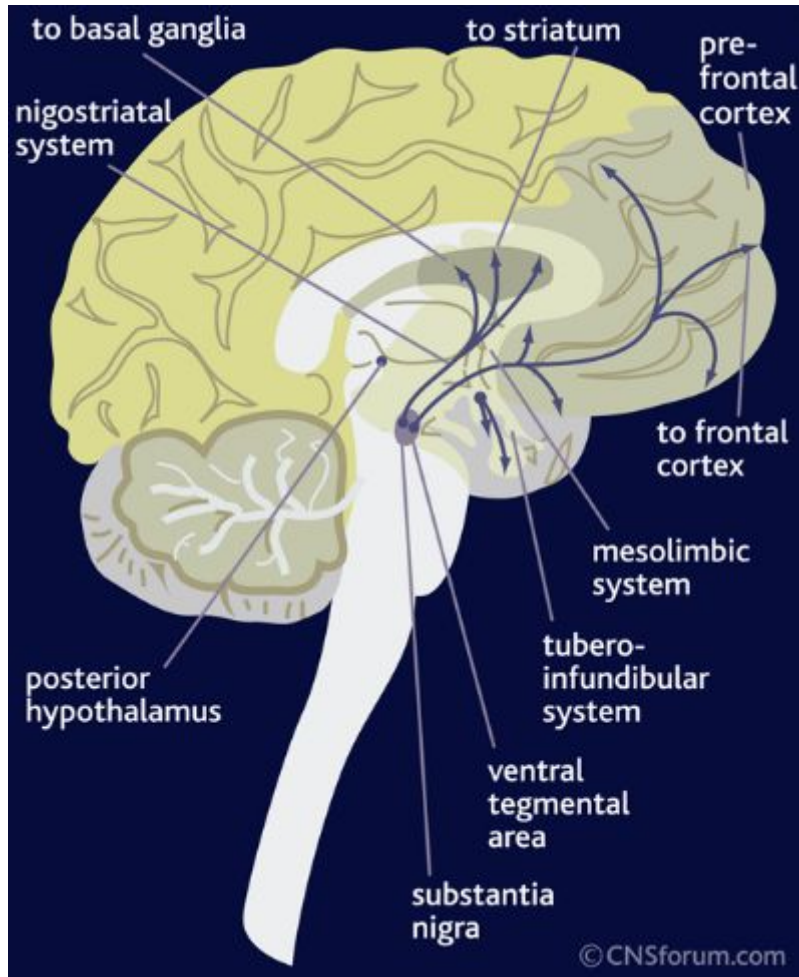
Consider the benefits of “fresh air and natural sunlight”

Walks

Hop Scotch

Swinging

# Dopamine (DA)



**Dopamine** is transmitted via three major pathways. The first extends from the substantia nigra to the caudate nucleus-putamen (neostriatum) and is concerned with sensory stimuli and movement. The second pathway projects from the ventral tegmentum to the mesolimbic forebrain and is thought to be associated with cognitive, reward and emotional behavior. The third pathway, known as the tubero-infundibular system, is concerned with neuronal control of the hypothalamic-pituitary endocrine system.

# Antipsychotics

## Phenothiazine Derv. (DA receptor antagonist)

Thorazine (Chlorpromazine)

Prolixin (fluphenazine)

Serentil (mesoridazine)

Trilafon (perphenazine)

Compazine (prochlorperazine)

Stelazine (trifluoperazine)

Mellaril (thioridazine)

# **Antipsychotics (cont)**

## **Phenothiazine derv.**

### **Thorazine/Stelazine/Mellaril**

Akathisia

Akinesia

Sleepiness

Cognitive Blunting

Stiffness

# **Antipsychotics (cont)**

## **Phenylbutylpiperadine derv.**

Haldol (haloperidol)

Orap (pimozide)

# **Antipsychotics (cont)**

**Phenylbutylpiperadine derv.**

**Haldol/Orap**

Akathisia

Akinesia

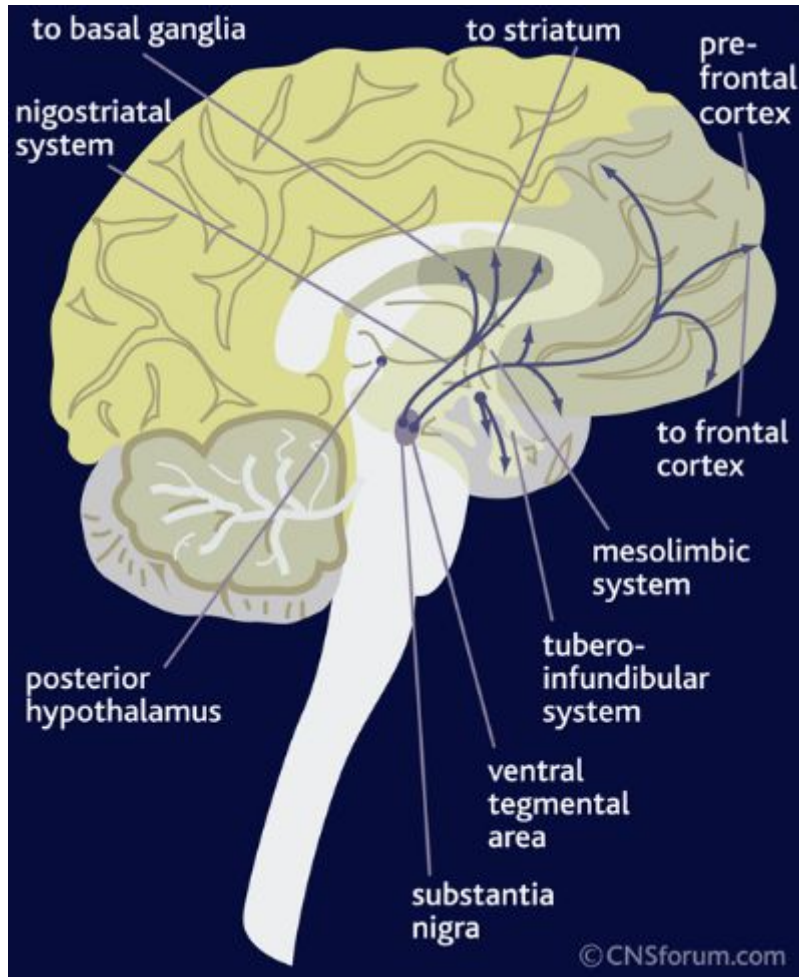
Blurred Vision

Sleepiness

Cognitive Blunting

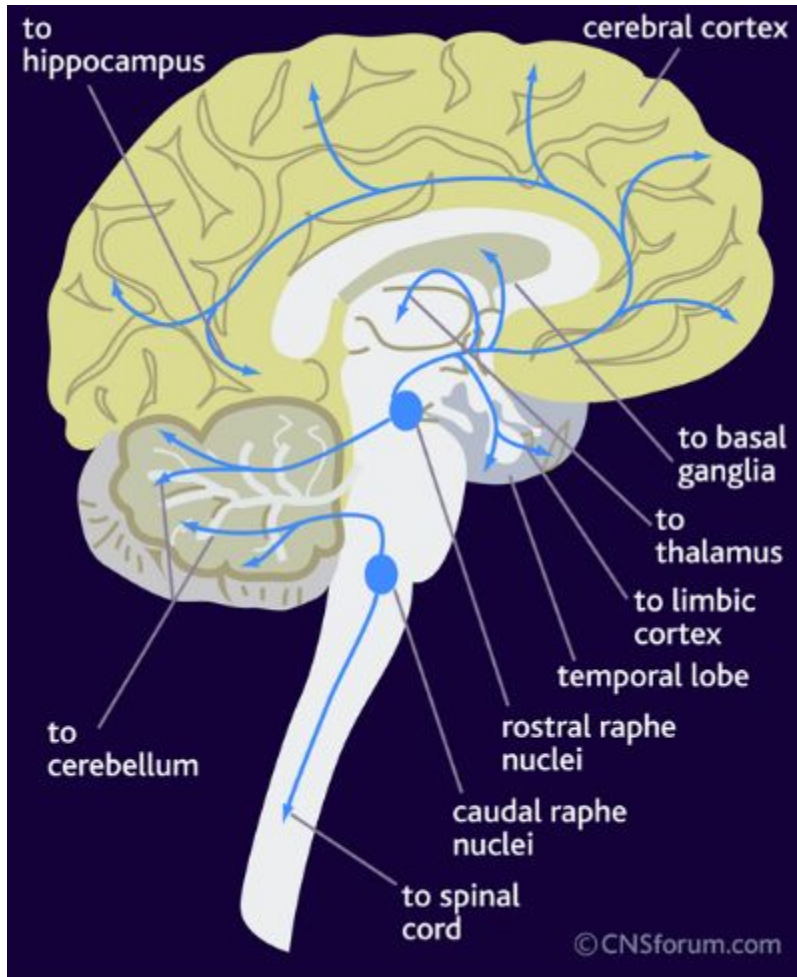


# Dopamine (DA)



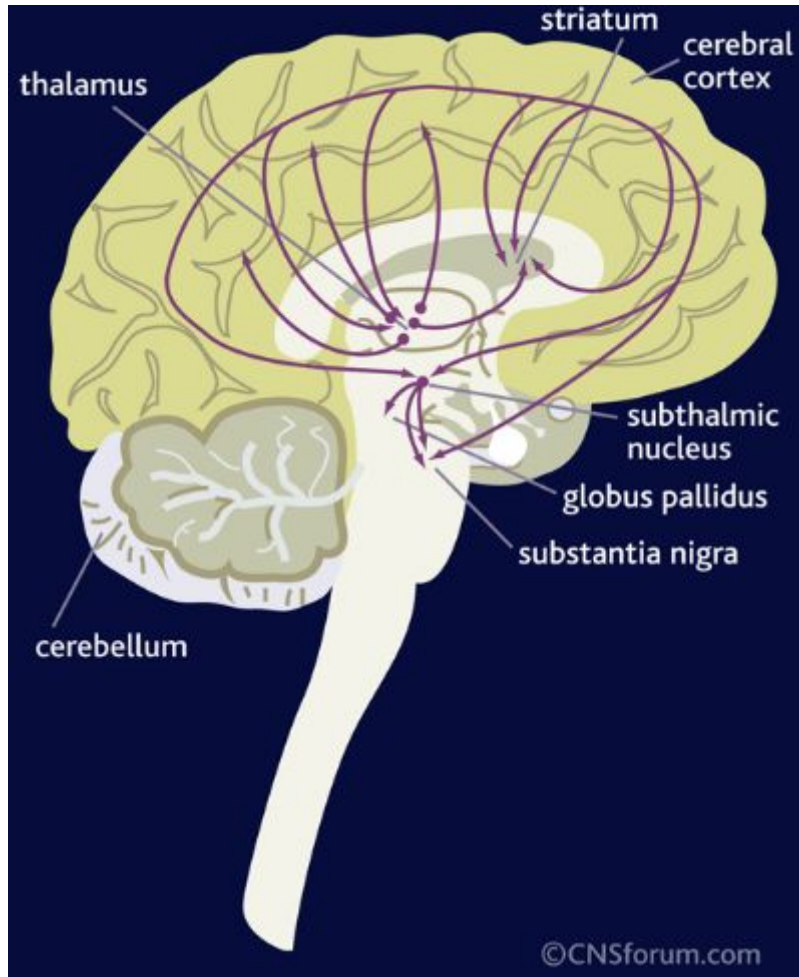
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# Serotonin (5-HT)



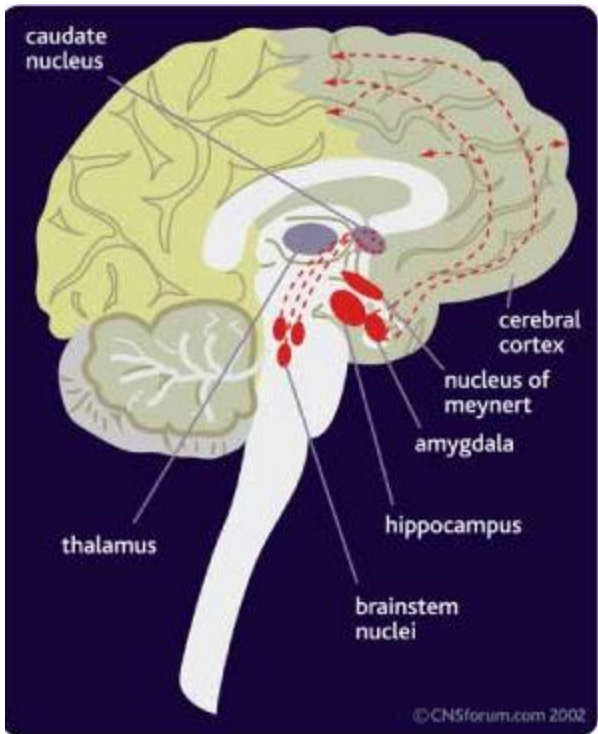
The principal centers for **serotonergic** neurons are the rostral and caudal raphe nuclei. From the rostral raphe nuclei axons ascend to the cerebral cortex, limbic regions and specifically to the basal ganglia. Serotonergic nuclei in the brain stem give rise to descending axons, some of which terminate in the medulla, while others descend the spinal cord.

# Glutamate



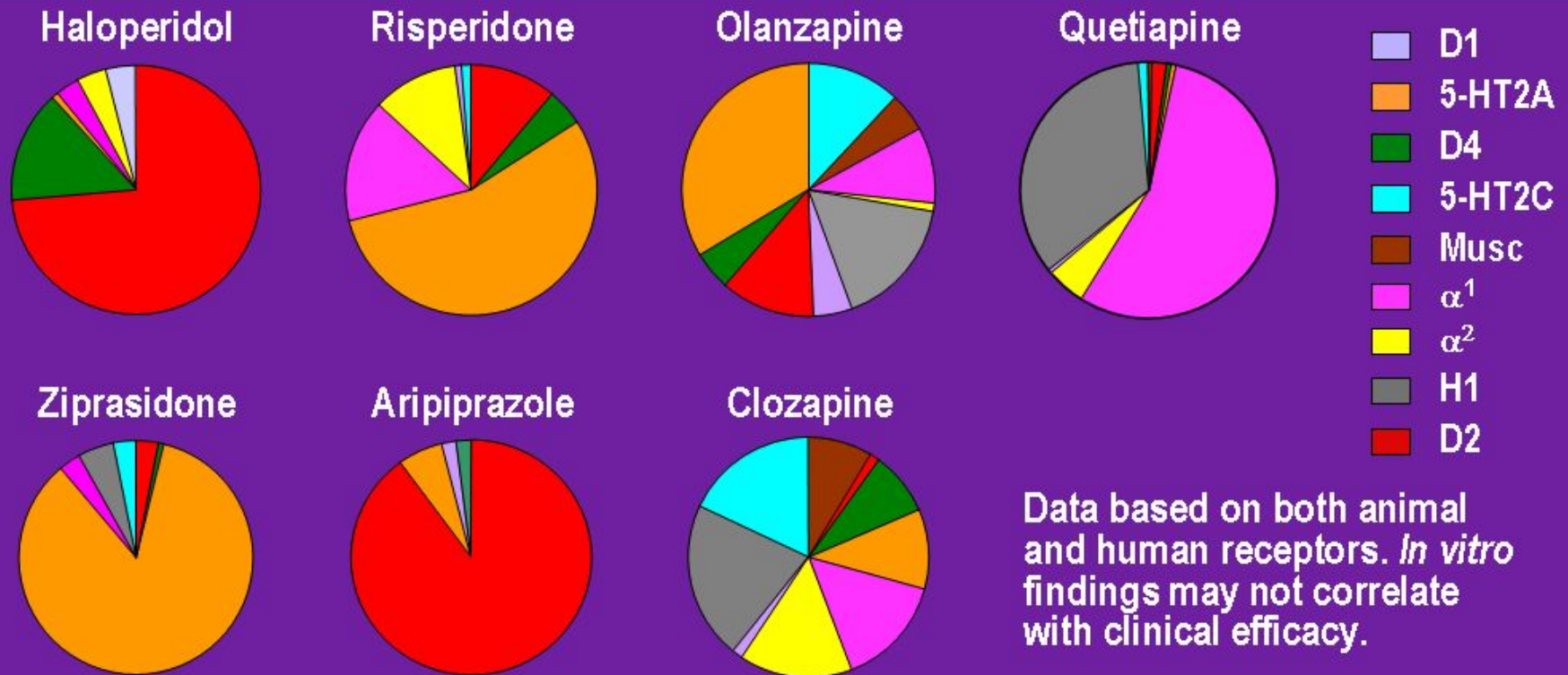
In the normal brain the prominent **glutamatergic** pathways are: the cortico-cortical pathways; the pathways between the thalamus and the cortex; and the extrapyramidal pathway (the projections between the cortex and striatum). Other glutamate projections exist between the cortex, substantia nigra, subthalamic nucleus and pallidum. Glutamate-containing neuronal terminals are ubiquitous in the central nervous system and their importance in mental activity and neurotransmission is considerable.

# Acetylcholine (ACh)



There are three **Acetylcholine** pathways in the CNS. (a) The Pons to thalamus and cortex, (b) Magnocellular forebrain nucleus to cortex, & (c) Septohippocampal. In the central nervous system, ACh has a variety of effects as a neuromodulator upon plasticity, arousal and reward. ACh has an important role in the enhancement of sensory perceptions when we wake up and in sustaining attention. ACh has also been shown to promote REM sleep

# Relative Receptor Binding Profiles: ZYPREXA Among Other Antipsychotic Drugs



Data based on both animal and human receptors. *In vitro* findings may not correlate with clinical efficacy.

For additional safety profile, see Important Safety Information slides and the full Prescribing Information.  
For safety profiles of other products, see respective manufacturers' package inserts.  
Bymaster FP, et al. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 1996;14(2):87-96.  
Schotte A, et al. *Psychopharmacology (Berl)* 1996;124(1-2):57-73.

**ZYPREXA**  
Olanzapine

# **Antipsychotics (cont)**

## **Dibenzapine deriv.**

Loxitane (loxapine)

Zyprexa (olanzapine)

Seroquel (quetiapine)

## **Benzisoxazole deriv.**

Risperdal (risperidone)

# **Antipsychotics (cont)**

## **Dibenzapine deriv.**

### **Loxitane/Zyprexa/Seroquel**

Sedation

Cognitive Blunting

## **Benzisoxazole deriv.**

### **Risperdal**

Drowsiness, Dizziness, Cognitive Blunting, Movement Disorders

# **Antipsychotics (cont)**

## **Dihydroindolones**

Geodone (ziprasidone)

Moban (molindone)

## **Quinolinone**

Abilify (aripiprazole)

## **Benzoisothiazol derv.**

Latuda (lurasidone)

## **MISC**

Eskalith/Lithobid (lithium)



# Antipsychotics (cont)

## Dihydroindolones

### Geodone/Moban

Sleepiness

Confusion

## Quinolinone

### Abilify

Confusion

## Benzoisothiazol derivatives

### Latuda (lurasidone)

Drowsiness

An internal restless or jittery feeling (akathisia)

Movement or muscle disorders

Insomnia

## MISC

### Lithium

Tremors

# **Working With Cognitive Cloudiness in Play Therapy**

Slow Down

Consider the benefits of “fresh air and natural sunlight”

# **Working With Cognitive Cloudiness in Play Therapy (cont)**

Simple Games (still require an attempt to focus)

Matching Games

Card Games

# **Working With Cognitive Cloudiness in Play Therapy (cont)**

Puzzles

Mazes

Guessing Games

Hangman

# **Working With Emotional Blunting in Play Therapy**

Rhythm

Music

Dance

Bibliotherapy

# **Working With Emotional Blunting in Play Therapy (cont)**

Emotions Tic Tac Toe

Emotions Identification

Emotion Cards—identification and act out

Facial Expressions

# **Working With Emotional Blunting in Play Therapy (cont)**

Art—Guided or Abstract

Jokes

Cartoons

# **Working with Coordination Difficulties in Play Therapy**

Practice

Use Rhythm

Increase speed/intensity



# **Gross Motor Skills**

**Involve the following in Play Therapy:**

Crafts

Finger Paints

Hula Hoops

# **Gross Motor Skills (cont)**

**Involve the following in Play Therapy:**

**Things that can be manipulated, stacked, etc. but are larger.**

Legos

Blocks

Dominos

Marbles

Jenga

# **Fine Motor Skills**

**Involve the following in Play Therapy:**

**Things that can be manipulated, stacked, etc. but are smaller.**

Pick up Sticks

Tiddlywinks

The game “Operation”

Ring Toss Games

Fishing Games

# **Fine Motor Skills (cont)**

## **Crafts which include:**

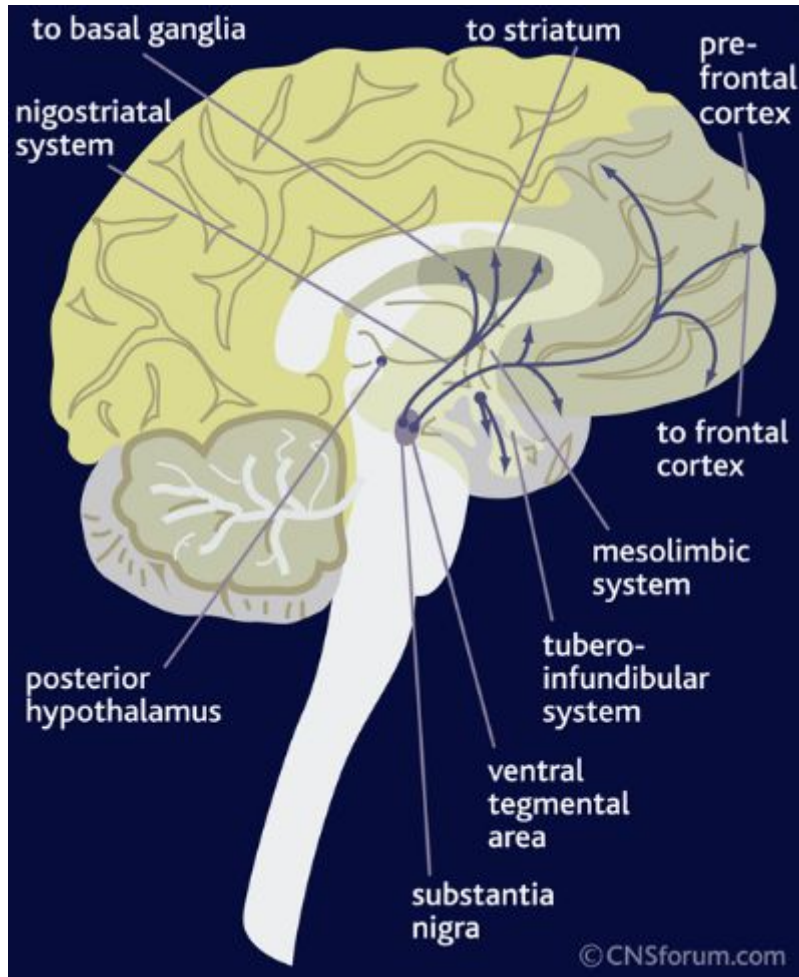
Beads

Macaroni/Shaped Pasta

# Other Things

Consult or get to know an Occupational  
Therapist

# Dopamine (DA)



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# **CNS Stimulants**

## **Analeptic**

Provigil (modafinil)

## **Amphetamines**

Dexedrine (dextroamphetamine)

Desoxyn (methamphetamine)

Adderall (amphetamine mixture)

Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine)

# CNS Stimulants (cont)

## Analeptic

### Provigil

Irritability

## Amphetamines

### Adderall/Dexedrine/Desoxyn/Vyvanse

Agitation/Aggression

Sleep Problems

Nervousness

Restlessness

**Adderall** more likely to create some mood lability and irritability than the other stimulant medications.



# **CNS Stimulants (cont)**

## **Non-Amphetamines**

Ritalin/Concerta/Metadate/Methylin (methylphenidate)

Cylert (pemoline)

Focalin (dexmethylphenidate)

Daytrana (methylphenidate)---Patch

# **CNS Stimulants (cont)**

## **Non-Amphetamines**

### **Ritalin/Concerta/Daytrana/Metadate/Methylin**

Sleep Problems

Nervousness

Agitation/Aggression

### **Cylert**

Insomnia

Depression

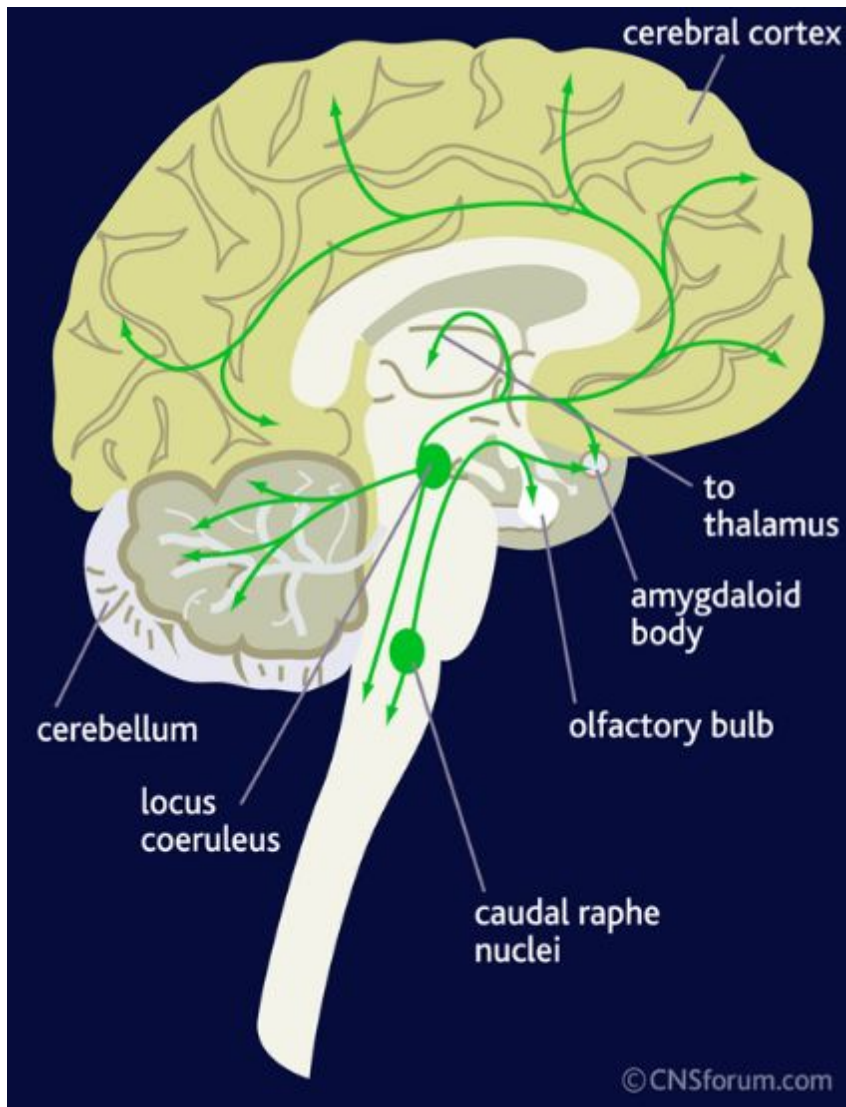
Irritability

### **Focalin**

Nervousness

Sleep Problems

# Norepinephrine (NE)



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# **MISC ADHD Medications**

Strattera (atomoxetine) potent inhibitor of presynaptic  
NE transporter

# MISC ADHD Medications (cont)

## Strattera

Fatigue

Sleep Disturbance

# **Working with Agitation/Aggression in Play Therapy**

Sandtray or Sand Play

Clay Therapy (Paul White)

Bibliotherapy

# **Working with Agitation/Aggression in Play Therapy (cont)**

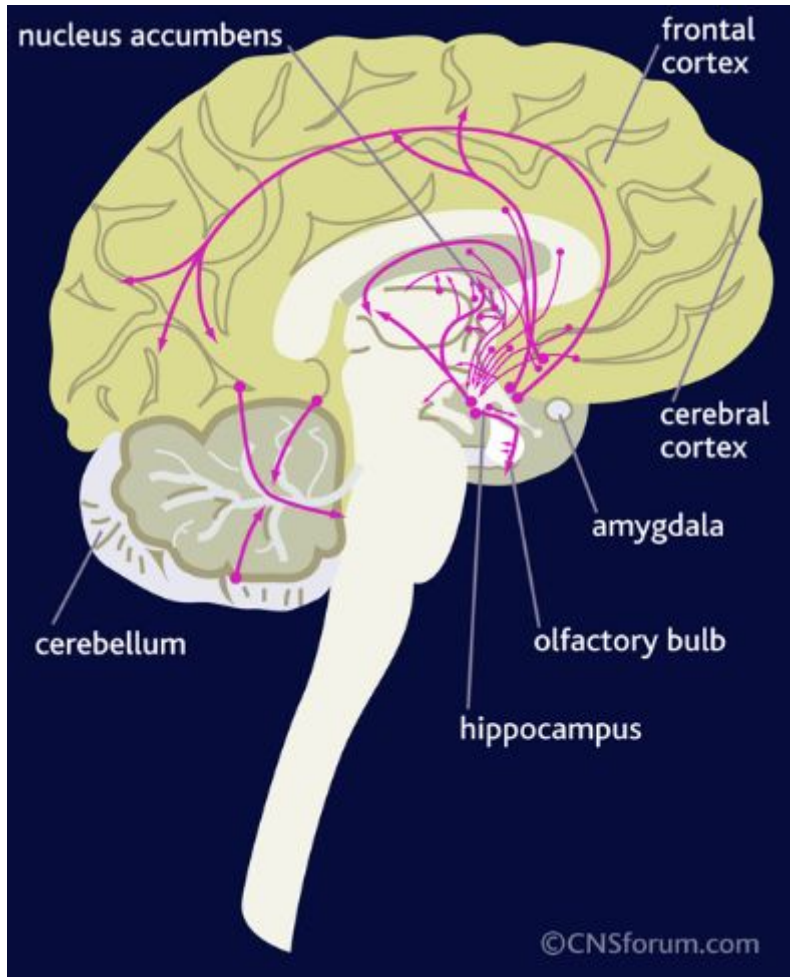
Consider the benefits of “fresh and Natural sun light”

Rhythm

Music

Natural Sounds

# Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)



**GABA** is the main inhibitory neurotransmitter in the central nervous system (CNS). GABAergic inhibition is seen at all levels of the CNS, including the hypothalamus, hippocampus, cerebral cortex and cerebellar cortex. As well as the large well-established GABA pathways, GABA interneurons are abundant in the brain, with 50% of the inhibitory synapses in the brain being GABA mediated.



# Sedative/Hypnotics

**(GABA)**

## **Newer**

Ambien (zolpidem)

ProSom (estazolam)

Lunesta (eszopiclone)

Sonata (zaleplon)

## **Older**

Halcion (triazolam)

Restoril (temazepam)

# **Sedative/Hypnotics (cont)**

**GABA**

**Ambien/Prosom/Lunesta/Sonata/Halcion/Restoril**

Fatigue

Clumsiness

# **Sedative/Hypnotics (cont)**

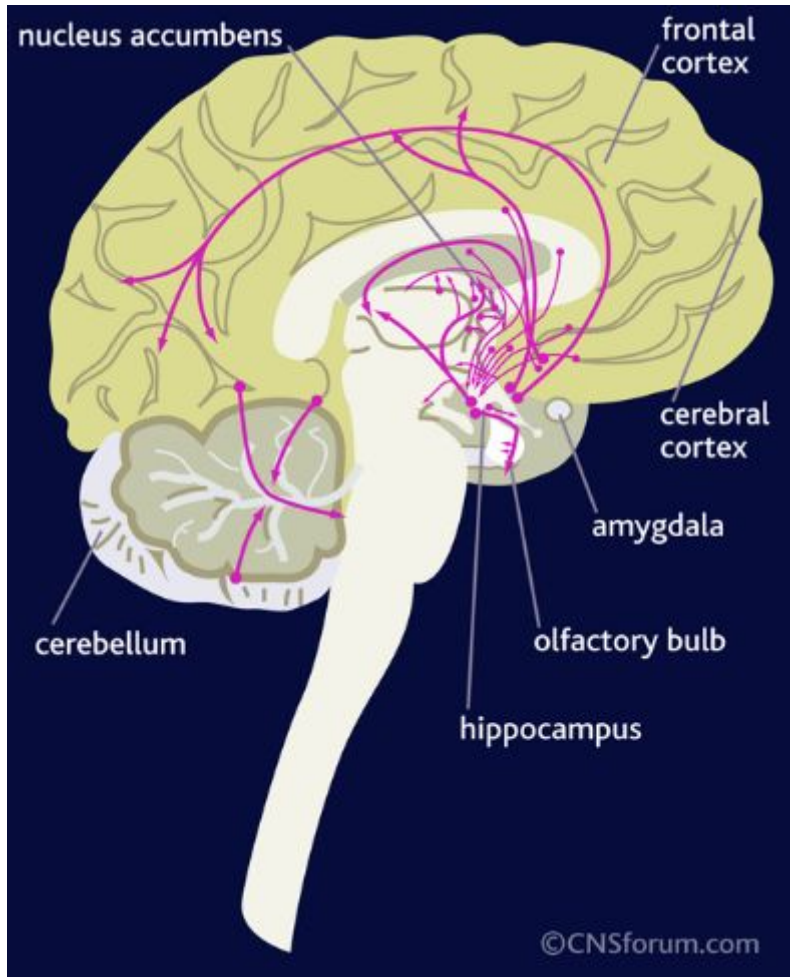
## **Melatonin**

Rozerem (ramelteon)

Fatigue

Clumsiness

# Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA)



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# **Anticonvulsants/Psychiatric Uses**

Tegretol/Carbatrol (carbamazepine)

Trileptal (oxcarbazepine)

Neurontin (gabapentin)

Topamax (topiramate)

Depakote/Depakene (valproic acid)

Lamictal (lamotrigine)

Gabitril (tiagabine)

# **Anticonvulsants/Psychiatric Uses**

**(cont)**

## **Tegretol/Carbatrol**

Dizziness, Drowsiness, Blurred Vision

## **Trileptal/Neurontin/Topamax/Lamictal**

Fatigue, Dizziness, Nervousness

## **Depakote/Depakene**

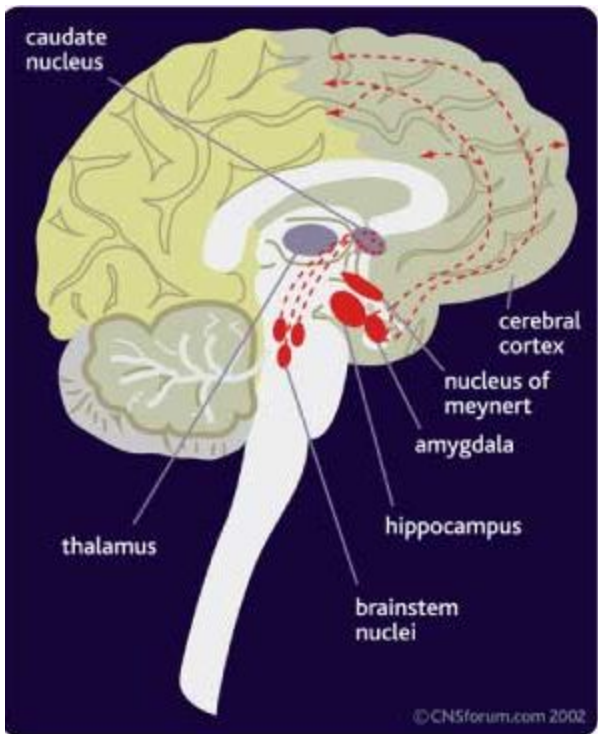
Drowsiness, Lethargy

## **Gabitril**

Fatigue, dizziness, unstable walking, seizures

# Acetylcholine (ACh)

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# Antiparkinsons/Psychiatric Uses

Cogentin (bentropine)

Artane (trihexyphenidyl)

No major negative effects



# MISC MISC MISC/Psychiatric Uses

**Benadryl** (diphenhydramine)—with older  
Antipsychotics

**Inversine** (mecamylamine)---Tourette's

**Revia** (naltrexone)---Severe Behavioral Disorder in  
MR, Pervasive Developmental Disorders

# **MISC MISC MISC Psychiatric Uses (cont)**

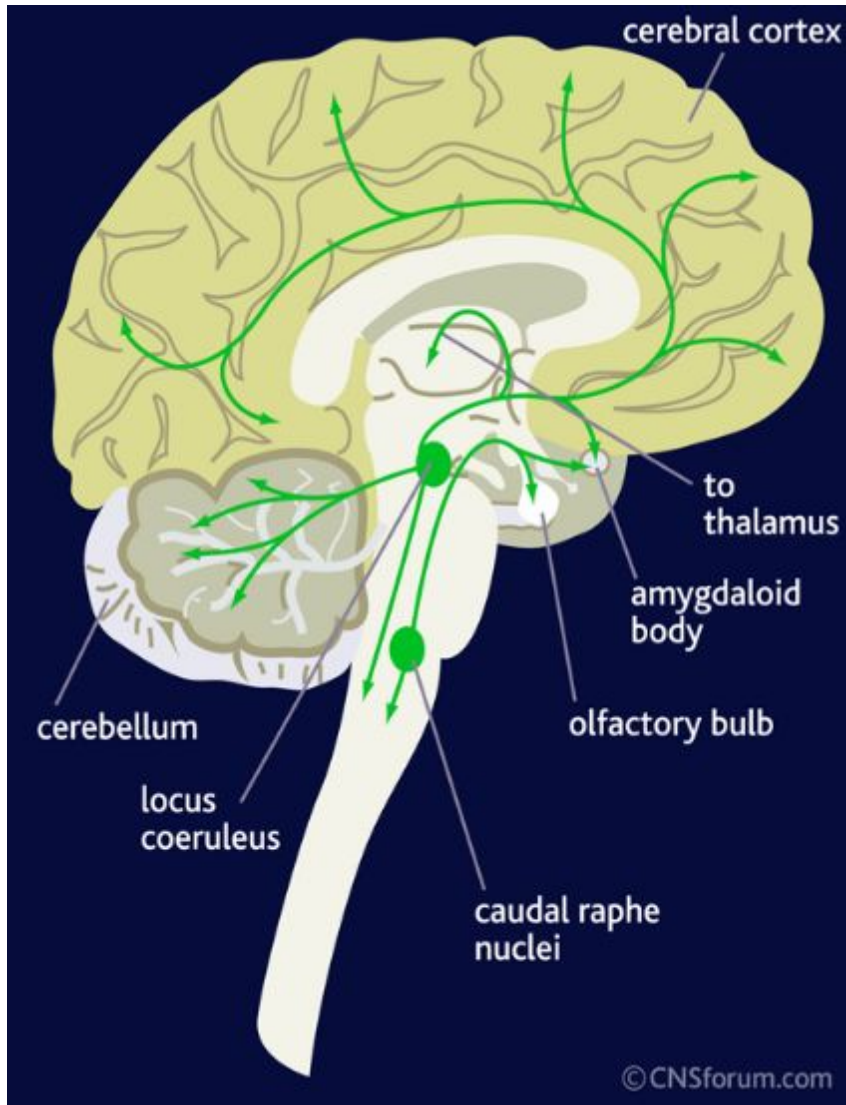
## **Benadryl**

Sedation, Cognitive Impairments

# **Medication**

Antihypertensives

# Norepinephrine (NE)



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# **MISC MISC MISC/Psychiatric Uses**

**Inderal** (propranolol)---IED, PTSD

**Catapres** (clonidine)—ADHD, Conduct Disorder,  
Tourette's

**Tenex/Intuniv** (guanfacine)---ADHD, Tourette's  
Irritability, Tiredness, Hypotension

# **Antihypertensives**

**Inderal** (propranolol)

Drowsiness, Hypotension

**Catapres** (clonidine)

Sedation, Drowsiness, Depression, Irritability,  
Hypotension

**Tenex/Intuniv** (guanfacine)

Irritability, Tiredness, Hypotension

# **Items We Should All Have: They Accomplish Multiple Tasks**

Cards

Marbles

Jacks

Dominos

Clay

Sand

# **Games We Should All Have: They Accomplish Multiple Tasks**

Jenga

Pick-up-Sticks

Connect 4

Tic Tac Toe

Operation

Chutes and Ladders



# Conclusion

Remember:

The goal is to go slow and be supportive.  
Allow the child to push past the side effect.

When stimulated the brain/body can  
overcome/compensate for medication side  
effects.

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## **Recommended videos:**

Medicating Kids—Frontline (2001)

The Medicated Child—Frontline—(2008)

The Secret Life of the Brain—PBS (2002)

Generation Meds—ABC World News—Diane

Sawyer—(2011)—Over Medication of Children in Foster Care

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