Here are some examples of our attachment needs in action. Please feel free to add your ideas and thoughts to make it your own.

Need

lack of connection and emotional attunement

lack of purpose

"who am I?" sense of self

low self-esteem

not belonging to a group

no personal power

unsafe

chaos, unable to predict

basic physical, emotional, social needs are unmet or unstable

Drive

fight or flight freeze or fawn

our psychological survival tactics are activated

If we have trauma in our childhood, we typically amass a set of survival tactics that were useful at that time.

However, they
become
maladaptive when
they consistently
prevent healthy,
adaptive actions
from being taken

Response

adaptive action

we take action to survive that is adaptive and meets the goal authentically

maladaptive action

quick fix that is temporary and keeps us stuck in a loop

Examples: emotional eating, shopaholic, workaholic, avoidance, substance abuse

Goal

be safe

be yourself

trust yourself

autonomy, purpose, value

value yourself and be valued by others

be loved and feel loved and included

self-regulate and have basic needs met on a permanent, authentic basis