# Navigating Body Image

A gentle guide for reconnecting with your body through compassion, curiosity, and care.

#### You Are Not Alone

Struggling with body image is a deeply human experience.
Whether it's shaped by messages from media, childhood, trauma, or comparison-your feelings are valid. Healing is possible, and you don't have to do it alone.

### Body Image Check-In

Use these prompts to explore your current relationship with your body:

How do I speak to my body when I look in the mirror?
What have I been taught (explicitly or subtly) about what bodies "should" look like?

When do I feel most connected to or comfortable in my body? What does my body allow me to experience?

#### Understanding Body Image

Body image is not just about how you look—it's how you think and feel about your body.

It's shaped by:
Cultural norms and media portrayals
Family and community beliefs
Past experiences (including trauma or bullying)
Mental health and nervous system responses

# Supportive Shifts

Try these gentle practices to cultivate a more peaceful body relationship:

Neutrality first. Instead of jumping to "I love my body," try:

"This is the body I live in today."

Daily body appreciation. Each night, name one thing your body did for you that day.

Curate your feed. Follow body-diverse, inclusive creators who remind you that all bodies are worthy.

Speak kindly. Catch critical thoughts and try replacing them with warmth or curiosity.

# **Body Image Affirmations**

My body deserves kindness, even on hard days.

I am more than how I look.

Healing is not linear, and I'm allowed to take my time.

I can be grateful for my body and still want to treat it with care.

# **When It Feels Heavy**

Sometimes the struggle with body image runs deeper and might be tied to trauma, identity, or deeper patterns of worthiness. Working with a therapist, coach, or support group can offer space to unpack these layers in a safe, compassionate way.