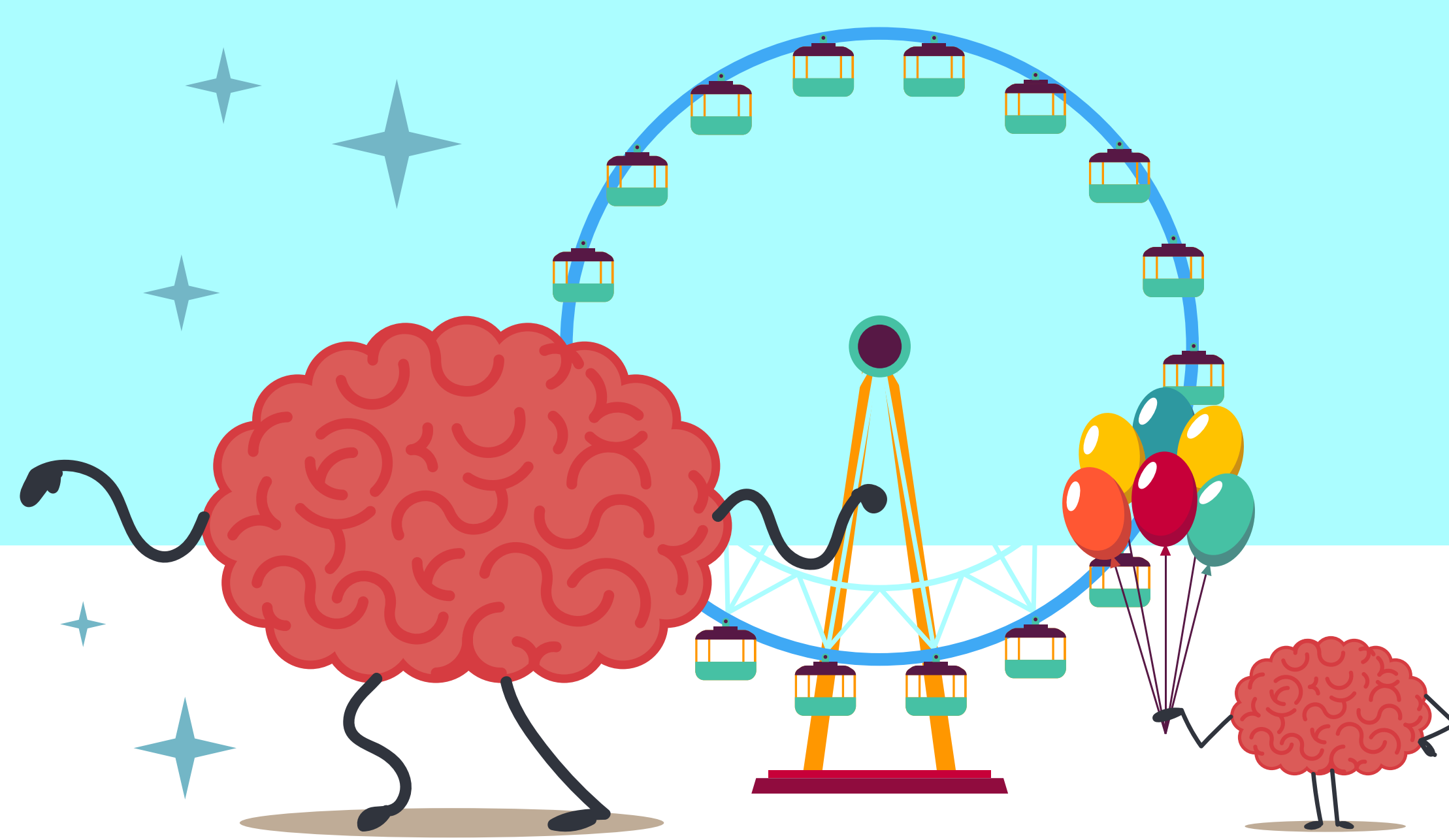
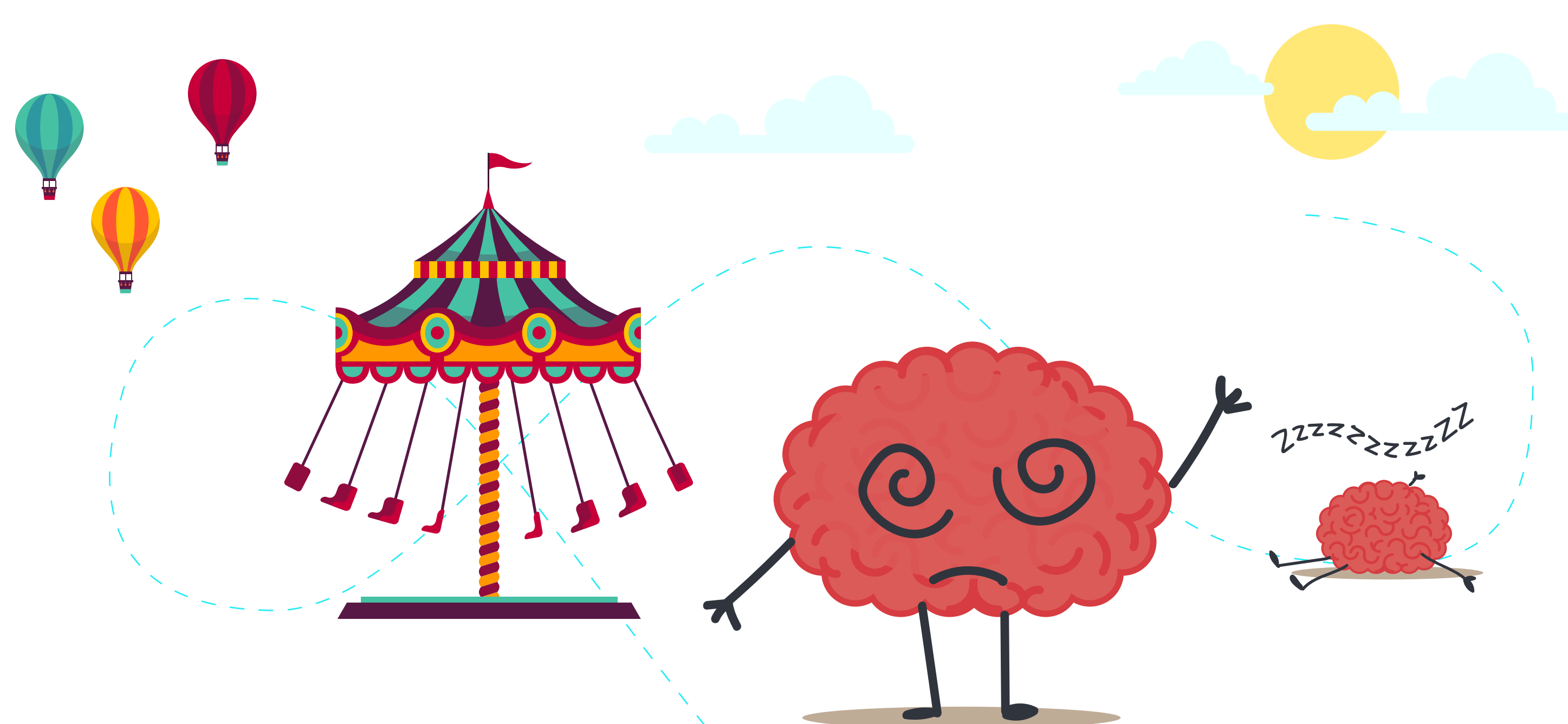


# THE BRAIN AND ADDICTION

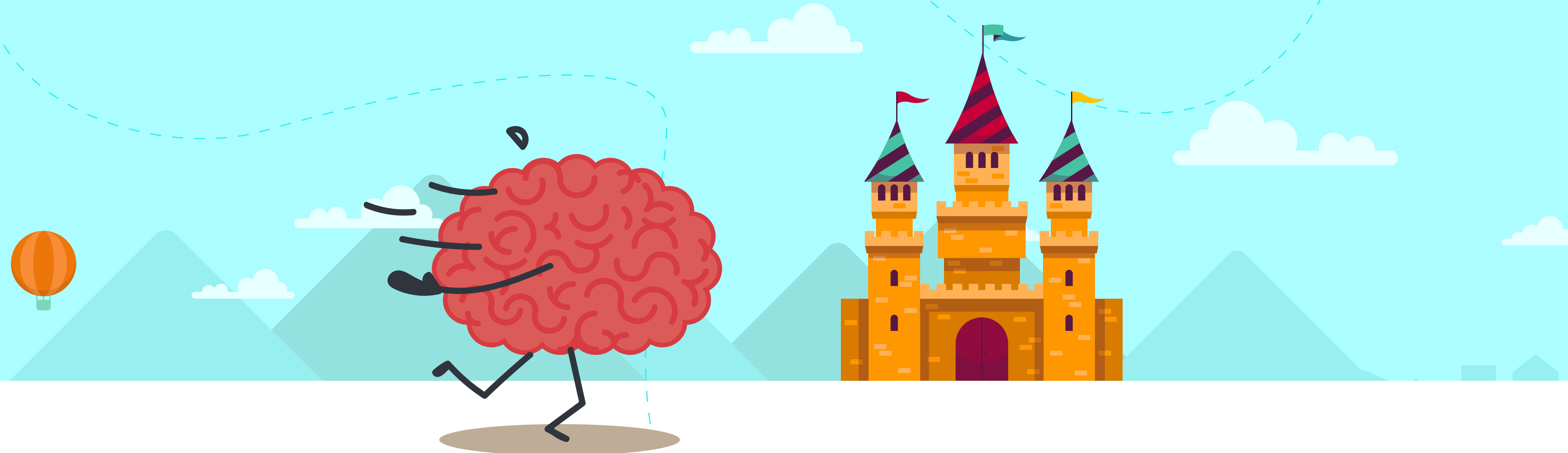
Problem gambling and addiction to drugs or alcohol develop in the brain in similar ways.



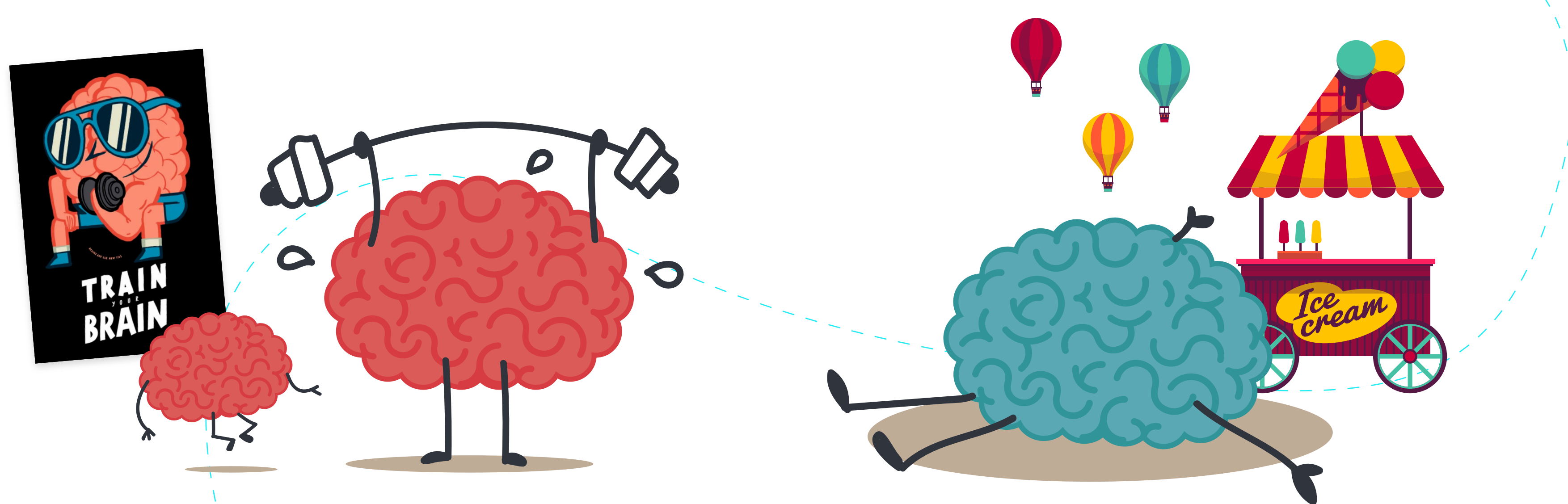
Gambling activates the brain's **REWARD NETWORK** in much the same way as drugs. But as gambling progresses, these rewards can become habit-forming and the gambler finds less pleasure in every day life.



Youth who gamble are **MORE IMPULSIVE** than others due to reduced activation of the prefrontal cortex. This part of the brain is not yet fully mature and affects judgement and impulse.

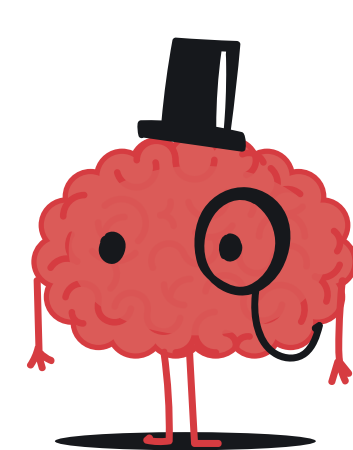


Problem gambling causes **INCONSISTENCIES** in how parts of the brain work together to control or stop behaviors that bring the individual pleasure.



**HEALTHY  
BRAIN**

**ADDICTED  
BRAIN**



## Resource Links:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28146248/>

<https://www.brainfacts.org/Diseases-and-Disorders/Addiction/2015/Gambling-Addiction-and-the-Brain>

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fbrainconnections.ca%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F05%2Fh1-whycantistop.pdf&clen=1877698&chunk=true>

<https://www.responsiblegambling.org/for-the-public/about-gambling/the-science-behind-gambling/>

<http://www.youthgambling.com/>

<https://brainconnections.ca/mood-and-gambling/>