## MINDFULNESS PRACTICE

Did you know incorporating regular meditation helps to...

- Decrease stress
- Increase energy
- Improve sleep quality
- Increase motivation and productivity
- Lower blood pressure
- Reduce pain



Quick tip: practice deep breathing! No matter where you are, you can practice breathing in and out SLOWLY to help you relax. Try closing your eyes and count your breaths like this:

Breathe in 1. 2. 3.

Breathe out. 1. 2. 3.

## Find a way that works for you!

- Put the screen down! Read, listen to music, draw, journal, cook, take a walk, play with your pet, etc.
- Take a few minutes to do something you enjoy- without screen time.
- Deep breathing- focus on your inhales and exhales for a few minutes.
- When your mind starts to wander, bring it back to focusing on your breath.
- Progressive Muscle Relaxation- while sitting or laying down, tense and release different muscle groups. Start at your feet and work your way up to your head.
- Visual imagery- Close your eyes and imagine a calming setting like the beach or woods. Think of the sounds, sights, and smells of that calming place.
- Mindfulness movement.

Lowering stress can help you focus, sleep better, feel happier, and improve your overall health.

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5

**Finger Breathing:** Stretch your hand out like a star. Trace your hand with the opposite pointer finger. Take slow breaths in and out as you trace each finger. <u>4</u> <u>3</u>

2



**Breathe in** 

Try finger breathing next time you're feeling upset, worried, or angry. You can also try this at bedtime to feel calm before falling asleep. How did you feel afterwards?

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