

GuidanceResources®

Healthy Habits for a Healthy Brain



1 Nutrition

The brain is negatively affected by excess sugar, unhealthy fats, high salt intake and low fiber content of poor diets.

Tip: Try replacing refined sugars for 30 days, satisfy your sweet tooth with dates, monk fruit or applesauce.

Tip: Reduce salt by seasoning with herbs and spices (freeze fresh herbs in ice cubes).



2 Exercise

Poor blood flow, oxidative stress, and inflammation negatively affect the brain.

Tip: Take a walk. Studies show a daily 25-minute brisk walk reduces your chances of Alzheimer's by 45%.



25-minute brisk walk



3 Unwind

Altered dopamine and serotonin levels cause anxiety and depression.

Tip: Write in a journal for 20 minutes. Examine the things that cause you bad stress.

Bad stress is defined by activities that do not serve a purpose, do not have a clear direction or do not result in clear victories.

Good stress on the other hand is purpose driven, timebound and results in a clear victory or success.



4 Restore

While you are sleeping, you brain enters a different metabolic and processing state.

Tip: Go to bed at the same time every night for 7 days and get up 7-8 hours after.
Condition your brain.

Sleep reorganizes your brain for the next day. It is the most important source of cleansing for your body.



Optimize

Cognitive reserve is the brain's intellectual store that may resist or offset damage and decline.

Tip: Have a structured conversation with a friend by phone or, better yet, invite them to walk and talk.

Cognitive reserve can be developed and sustained through life-long mental and physical activity.

Structured Conversation





Your Employee Assistance Program offers a wealth of guidance, tools and resources to keep your mind and body in shape. Contact us anytime for more tips on mental, emotional and physical fitness.



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