

KidsHealth.org/classroom

Teacher's Guide

This guide includes:

- Standards
- Related Links
- Discussion Questions
- Activities for Students
- Reproducible Materials

Standards

This guide correlates with the following National Health Education Standards:

Students will:

- Comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.
- Demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health.
- Demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.
- Demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.
- Demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, and community health.

National Health Education Standards: www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/sher/ standards/index.htm



Grades 6 to 8 • Health Problems Series **Stress**

You're late for school, today's assignments aren't done yet, and you spill a drink on your shirt in the car. Let's face it, you're stressed! Your students feel stress, too, at school and at home. These activities can help them to learn more about what stress is, and how to effectively manage it.

Related KidsHealth Links

Articles for Kids:

Relax & Unwind minisite

KidsHealth.org/en/kids/center/relax-center.html

The Story on Stress

KidsHealth.org/en/kids/stress.html

Five Steps for Fighting Stress

KidsHealth.org/en/kids/5-steps.html

Talking About Your Feelings

KidsHealth.org/en/kids/talk-feelings.html

When Tests Make You Nervous

KidsHealth.org/en/kids/test-anxiety.html

School Counselors

KidsHealth.org/en/kids/school-counselors.html

Articles for Teens:

Stress & Coping minisite

TeensHealth.org/en/teens/center/stress-center.html

Stress

TeensHealth.org/en/teens/stress.html

What Stresses You Out About School?

TeensHealth.org/en/teens/school-stress.html

Test Anxiety

TeensHealth.org/en/teens/test-anxiety.html

Handling Sports Pressure and Competition

TeensHealth.org/en/teens/sports-pressure.html

School Counselors

TeensHealth.org/en/teens/school-counselors.html

Discussion Questions

Note: The following questions are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.

- 1. A big test, an annoying little brother, and a bad haircut can all add up to a lot of stress! What stresses you out? How do you feel when you're stressed?
- 2. Everyone deals with stress differently. How do you deal with it? Do some stress management methods work better for you than others? Why do you think some strategies are more effective in reducing your stress level?
 - What's the difference between good stress and bad stress? Give an example of a
- 3. situation in which stress could be helpful. When does stress become a problem?





Grades 6 to 8 • Health Problems Series Stress

Activities for Students

Note: The following activities are written in language appropriate for sharing with your students.

Stress Mail

Objectives:

Students will:

- · Learn to identify common stressors
- · Explore strategies for managing stress

Materials:

- Computer with Internet access
- "Stress Mail" handout

Class Time:

20 minutes

Activity:

Everyone you know is stressed about something - homework, the big game, an argument with a parent. You decide to reduce the stress level in people's lives by creating a new Internet service called Stress Mail. A stressed-out person can write you an email, and you'll respond by providing suggestions for dealing with the stress. Start by reading the emails on the "Stress Mail" handout. Choose one and write a response, using the information from the KidsHealth.org articles. In your response, make sure to:

- Identify what's causing the person's stress
- Provide one or two ways for reducing stress
- Offer a suggestion for avoiding stress in the future

Extensions:

- 1. Now that you've helped others to manage stress, it's your turn to help yourself! Create your own plan for stress management. In your plan, include the following items:
 - · Things that make you feel stressed
 - Strategies for managing stress that might work for you
 - Changes you could make in your life to help avoid stress
- 2. Do you eat chocolate or run a mile when you're stressed? Take a poll of students at your school, and get the lowdown on how they handle stress. Analyze the results. What patterns and trends do you notice about stress management strategies? Do older and younger students deal with stress differently? How about girls and guys? Why do you think you got the results you did?





Grades 6 to 8 • Health Problems Series Stress

Stress Log

Objectives:

Students will:

· Write about stressful situations and stressbusting techniques for four weeks

Materials:

- Computer with Internet access
- "Stress Log" handout, pen or pencil

Class Time:

Several minutes a week outside class for four weeks

Activity:

Everyone deals with stress sometimes — from little things like missing the bus or having an argument with a friend, to big things like dealing with divorce or a sick family member. First, read the KidsHealth.org articles related to stress, then write down a couple of stressful situations that come up each week, how you dealt with them and how you felt afterward. Are there some things you might have handled differently?

Extension:

Choose one stressful situation that came up during the month you kept a stress log. Write a brief essay about the situation, how you dealt with it, and how you felt afterward. In retrospect, did you deal with the situation in the best way? If not, write a better way you could have dealt with it.

Reproducible Materials

Handout: Stress Mail

 ${\it Kids Health.org/class room/6} to 8/problems/emotions/stress_handout 1.pdf$

Handout: Stress Log

KidsHealth.org/classroom/6to8/problems/emotions/stress_handout2.pdf

Ouiz: Stress

KidsHealth.org/classroom/6to8/problems/emotions/stress_quiz.pdf

Answer Key: Stress

KidsHealth.org/classroom/6to8/problems/emotions/stress_quiz_answers.pdf



KidsHealth.org is devoted to providing the latest children's health information. The site, which is widely recommended by educators, libraries, and school associations, has received the "Teachers' Choice Award for the Family" and the prestigious Pirelli Award for "Best Educational Media for Students." KidsHealth comes from the nonprofit Nemours Foundation. Check out www.KidsHealth.org to see the latest additions!





Health Problems Series Stress

Name: Date:

Stress Mail

Instructions: Read the KidsHealth.org articles on stress, then choose one of the emails below. Write a response, making sure to:

- · Identify what you think is causing the person's stress
- · Provide one or two ways for reducing stress
- · Offer a suggestion for avoiding stress in the future

From: kate@stressfulschedule.com

To: Stress Mail

Subject: Stress on the go

I am so stressed! I barely have a minute to relax all day long. Before school, I go to swim practice, and after school, I work on the school newspaper and have piano lessons. On Saturday mornings, I volunteer at the local hospital. Then the rest of the weekend, I try to catch up on the schoolwork that I didn't have time for all week. I never see my friends, and I always eat on the run. I'm starting to have headaches and stomachaches. What should I do?

From: nicholas@numericallystressed.com

To: Stress Mail Subject: Math stress

I can't remember the last time I got a good night's sleep. I keep waking up because I'm so stressed about my math class. I just toss and turn, thinking about about the next question I'll get wrong when the teacher calls on me. When the morning alarm goes off, I'm exhausted, and by the time math class rolls around, I can barely keep my eyes open. Help!

From: will@woefullystressed.com To: Stress Mail Subject: Stuck in bed

ARGH! Everything is going wrong. I have a science fair project due at the end of the month and it will take me forever to do because science class is hard for me. To make things worse, we're playing basketball in P.E. next week and I've never even dribbled a ball. With so much stress. there are some days I just don't want to get out of bed.

From: sam@stressedandlonely.com To: Stress Mail Subject: Stress in the family

My parents are getting a divorce, and I'm really stressed ^{out} about it. I can't stop thinking about what's going to happen to my family. I don't feel like hanging out with any of my friends, and I don't think there's anyone I can talk to who Will understand what I'm going through. When someone does try to talk to me, I snap at them and tell them to leave me alone. I don't know what to do to get this knot out of my stomach.





Health Problems Series Stress

Stress Log

Everyone deals with stress sometimes - from little things like missing the bus or having an argument with a friend, to big things like dealing with divorce or a sick family member. Write down a couple of stressful situations that come up each week, how you dealt with them and how you felt afterward. Are there some things you might have handled differently?

	+	 ·
	Stressful situation	
w	How I dealt with it	
	How I felt afterward	
Wee	Stressful situation	
	How I dealt with it	
	How I felt afterward	
Week 3	Stressful situation	
	How I dealt with it	
	How I felt afterward	
4	Stressful situation	
	How I dealt with it	
	How I felt afterward	





Health Problems Series **Stress**

Name:	Date:
	2 4.400

Quiz

- 1. True or false: Stress is always bad.
- 2. Common physical symptoms of stress might include:
 - a) headache
 - b) stomach ache
 - c) racing heart
 - d) all of the above
- 3. Things that cause stress are called ______.
- 4. True or false: Doing things like breathing exercises, yoga, or can help ease stress.
- 5. Underline healthy ways to deal with stress:
 - a) talking to a trusted adult
 - b) exercising, going for a walk, or riding a bike
 - c) eating a dozen doughnuts
 - d) listening to music
 - e) throwing your phone out a window
 - f) playing with a pet

EXTRA CREDIT:

6. The human body responds to stressors by activating the nervous system and specific hormones. The hormones _____ and ____ speed up heart rate, breathing rate, blood pressure, and metabolism.

Quiz Answer Key

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- 2. Common physical symptoms of stress might include:
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- 3. Things that cause stress are called stressors.
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 - c) eating a dozen doughnuts
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 - e) throwing your phone out a window
 - f) playing with a pet

EXTRA CREDIT:

6. The human body responds to stressors by activating the nervous system and specific hormones. The hormones <u>adrenaline</u> and <u>cortisol</u> speed up heart rate, breathing rate, blood pressure, and metabolism.