



## Self Care for Beginners

If like many of us, you're not very good at practising self care or even comfortable talking about it, then this factsheet aims to help you action self care at all stages of your wellbeing. For many people, it's easier to step up and look after others than ourselves but learning to look after YOU is essential to avoid burnout.

### Your self care jug

Think of self care like a jug of water; it's important the jug always has water in it so you can drink to stay healthy, but also allows you to offer others a drink when needed. That means you need to consciously do things to top up the jug every day.

There are elements of self care which should be part of our everyday routine, just like brushing your teeth. You might activate others a few times a week to provide big top-ups, or some you draw on when times are extra tough. Knowing and planning for these ensures you keep your self care level healthy.

### Create a self care plan

To help plan your self care strategies, read the info below and then complete the [Self Care Planner](#) (see page 3) by our youth project [tuneinnotout.com](http://tuneinnotout.com). Why not stick this next to your bed, or mirror to help you check in each day?

### Nothing is too small when it comes to self care

Consider what you can include in your everyday routine so some aspects of self care become your everyday norm.

Some essential maintenance things to think about:

- Make your bed
- Have a shower
- Eat breakfast
- Meditate/exercise
- Read before bed instead of screen time
- Walk the dog each morning
- On weekdays get to bed before 10pm
- Make a daily 'to do' list
- Drink plenty of water....



Think about what works for you and consider the different areas of your self care from emotional, physical, nourishment, rest and relaxation to ensure all areas get some TLC. The key to making these happen is to schedule them in, so they can become part of your self care routine.

### **Make time for what makes YOU feel good**

Take some time to think about what makes **you** feel good.

Some suggestions might be:

- Drawing, colouring-in, music, singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing
- Spending time with your pet
- Hobbies/sport
- Catching up with <insert your awesome person/s here> via phone, facetime etc
- Watching your favourite comedian or musician
- Preparing a shopping list and including a special meal

The Self Care Planner (page 3) helps you look at this in relation to various aspects of your health from your emotional to physical self care. Look at adding some of these into your schedule for the next week or even make it an everyday essential for a while if your jug is low.

### **Recognising what empties your jug**

As well as knowing what boosts your self care think about what depletes it. Noting these and looking for warning signs can help you activate other aspects of your self care plan.

These things might be:

- Not eating well
- Drinking too much alcohol
- Spending time with a person who negatively impacts your self esteem
- Too much social media time

Make note of these so you can keep an eye on them creeping in and emptying your jug.

### **When do you need to call on your ‘Self Care Superpowers’**

What raises the red warning flag that you need to implement extra self care strategies as your self care jug is getting low or being drained too quickly? Knowing what these are can help you take action early.

Some signs might be:

- Not completing your everyday self care essentials
- Not sleeping well
- Negative head chatter (you know that annoying voice in your head)
- Avoiding social situations virtually or in-person
- Feeling stressed for more than one day
- Being short-tempered with family and friends

If these signs keep recurring and persisting, then it’s time to activate some extra self care. On the Self Care Planner, you can mark certain items as your **Self Care Superpowers**, for example, you might find making time for 30 minutes of physical exercise is very important, or calling a friend or a support service for a check-in when required. Let others know what works for you, and perhaps share your plan.



Start small - Everyday self care



Be sure to schedule them in!



Warning flags I need extra self care



How I can fill my self care jug

Things that make ME feel good



Nourish my body



Care for my body



Rest the mind and body



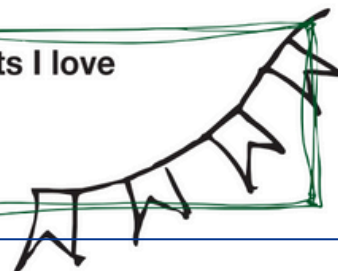
Move my body



Emotional care



Treats I love



= My Self Care SUPERPOWERS

Draw on these when times are extra tough

Things to watch out for

What might empty your self care jug too quickly that you should keep an eye on?