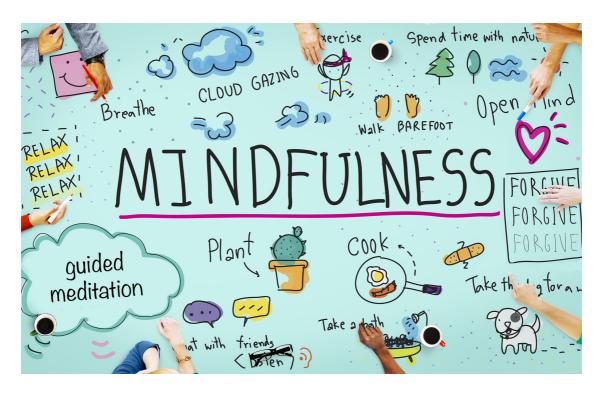


# **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**



## **The Art of Mindful Eating**

Katelyn Jakobsen, LCMHC

#### What is Mindfulness?

Mindfulness is a practice based on Zen Buddhism, of engaging in the present moment utilizing all 5 of our senses (taste, touch, smell, hearing, and sight).

### What is Mindful Eating?

Mindful eating applies the tenets of mindfulness to eating. Simply put, eating intentionally, and bring to mind all of your senses. Beyond that, it cultivates feelings of gratitude towards the food and the digestive process. Mindful eating has little to do with calories, or losing weight. It is best utilized when focused on healthy foods, however, can be used even while consuming a slice of pizza. The intent is to savor the moment, and cultivate a full presence to the moment, connection to the food, and your body. It is important to apply patience, a non-judgemental stance, and acceptance towards the practice.

## **Examples of Mindless Eating**

- -Eating past satiation cues
- -Eating in response to our emotions e.g. feeling sad, stressed, overwhelmed

- -Eating and multitasking
- -Rapidly consuming a large amount of food

## **Examples of Mindful Eating**

- -Listening to satiation cues
- -Eating in response to bodily cues/sensations e.g. stomach growling or low energy

#### What are the benefits?

In a 2011 study, over 2 million Americans reported that at least half of the time they eat,

they are engaging in an additional activity such as watching TV, scrolling on their phone, or working from their desk.

"Research has shown that mindful eating can lead to greater psychological well being, increased pleasure when eating, and body satisfaction" (Cheung, Lillian. Harvard

Nutrition. The Nutrition Source: Mindful Eating).

## **Cultivating a Mindful Eating Practice**

- Begin by getting rid of all distractions, phones, electronic devices, meetings and find a quiet space to eat, ideally outdoors.
- pause for a few moments to express gratitude for the food and all that it took to come to your plate. If you would like, you can add a gratitude mantra to this practice. Sample mantra provided below.
- Take a bite of food and chew slowly
- Call to focus all of your senses while you eat. This is most effective when chewing slowly, with your eyes closed.

During today's meal, I took a warm plate of food onto my balcony and expressed gratitude, wishing it to nourish me fully. Before eating the food, I notice it on my plate. All of its colors, and textures. I noticed the spice from a red pepper paste, the chewy texture from a mushroom, the snap of black pepper on the back of my throat. I felt the sunshine radiate onto my skin and listened to a windchime in the distance as I mindfully sat, eating my food in silence.

- Eat slowly, devoting at least 5 minutes to this mindful eating practice.
- Place your eating utensil down between bites, check in with your digestive system. How is it responding to the food you are consuming?

## Sample Gratitude Mantra for Eating

I am most excited by foods that nourish me fully. May this meal digest effortlessly and turn directly into the fuel I need to

share more love with the world. Health and wellness are my priority. With this meal I listen intently to the intuitive guidance my body shares. With each bite, I recognize all of the energy flowing from the earth, into this food, and into my body.

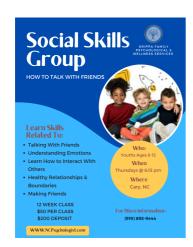
-Hitomi Mochizuki

For more information on getting started:

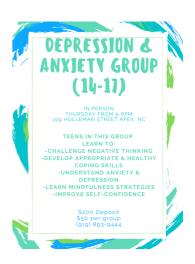
The website of the Center for Mindful Eating (www.thecenterformindfuleating.org) lists coaches across the country.

### **GROUP THERAPY:**

- We are currently offering numerous Groups for children, teens, and adults, including:
- Intensive Outpatient Program (11-18)
- Anxiety & Depression Group for tweens (11-13)
- Teen Anxiety & Depression Group (14-15)
- Teen Anxiety & Depression Group (16-18)
- Teen Empowerment & Growth Group
- Teen Social Club
- Parenting Teens Support Group







To learn more about any of our Groups and to enroll please call us at 919-893-8444 or email us at <a href="mailto:info@ncpsychologist.com">info@ncpsychologist.com</a>. Visit us at <a href="www.ncpsychologist.com">www.ncpsychologist.com</a> and our Facebook and Instagram pages: Krippa Family Psychological & Wellness Services.

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