

# Spokane Holistic Healing Client Handout Nutrition Plan to Help Decrease Stress

A well-balanced nutrition plan can play a crucial role in reducing stress by supporting brain function, stabilizing mood, and reducing inflammation. Here's a structured plan to help decrease stress:

## 1. Key Nutrients for Stress Reduction

- **Magnesium** Helps relax muscles and regulate the nervous system. (Found in spinach, almonds, avocados, dark chocolate)
- **B Vitamins** Support energy production and brain function. (Whole grains, eggs, leafy greens, legumes)
- **Omega-3 Fatty Acids** Reduce inflammation and promote brain health. (Fatty fish, chia seeds, walnuts)
- Vitamin C Lowers cortisol levels and supports the immune system. (Citrus fruits, bell peppers, strawberries)
- **Protein & Amino Acids** Help neurotransmitter production. (Lean meats, eggs, beans, tofu)
- **Complex Carbohydrates** Stabilize blood sugar and promote serotonin production. (Quinoa, oats, sweet potatoes)

## 2. Sample Stress-Reducing Meal Plan

#### **Breakfast:**

- Oatmeal topped with walnuts, flaxseeds, and berries
- Herbal tea (chamomile or green tea)

#### **Mid-Morning Snack:**

- Greek yogurt with honey and pumpkin seeds
- A handful of almonds

#### Lunch:

- Grilled salmon or tofu with quinoa and steamed broccoli
- Mixed greens with olive oil and lemon dressing



#### Afternoon Snack:

#### **Dinner:**

- Lentil soup with leafy greens
- Brown rice with grilled chicken or tempeh
- Steamed asparagus

#### **Evening Snack (if needed):**

- Warm almond milk with a dash of cinnamon
- A handful of pistachios

## 3. Additional Tips for Stress Reduction

- **Stay Hydrated** Dehydration can worsen stress and anxiety. Aim for 8+ glasses of water daily.
- Limit Caffeine & Sugar These can cause energy crashes and increase anxiety.
- Mindful Eating Eat slowly and be present to enhance digestion and relaxation.
- **Include Adaptogens** Herbs like ashwagandha, rhodiola, and holy basil help combat stress.