

## **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**



## **SLEEP HYGIENE**

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Sleep deprivation has a negative effect on multiple dimensions of our lives. For example, not getting enough sleep can make it challenging to regulate negative emotions and can lead to a worsened mood (Baum et al., 2013). The CDC recommends that teens get 8-10 hours of sleep a night and that adults aim for 7 or more, but meeting this goal can be challenging.

Sleep hygiene is a term that refers to creating a set of habits to help improve the quality of your sleep. Sleep hygiene is powerful on its own, but for people who struggle with insomnia, incorporating these practices can be especially useful when combined with other interventions such as CBT, medications, or mindfulness techniques.

10 Tips For Healthy Sleep Hygiene:

1) Stick to a sleep schedule

a) Start going to bed and waking up at the same time. By doing this, you are training your body to get into a regular sleep routine.

#### 2) Create a nightly routine to remind your body that it's time to rest

a) This could look like a warm shower followed by reading a chapter in a book while sipping a cup of caffeine-free tea. Whatever your nightly routine, make sure it sets the tone for relaxation and sleep, and that you stick to it.

### 3) Get daily exposure to sunlight

a) Sunlight can help support the body's natural circadian rhythm which is important for quality sleep.

### 4) Incorporate physical activity into your daily routine

a) Having a consistent exercising routine can help you fall asleep easier at night.

# <u>5) Limit consumption of caffeine, alcohol, and nicotine throughout the day and especially for 4-6 hours before bedtime</u>

#### 6) Use your bed only for sleeping

a) Our brains make associations between activities and the spaces in which we do them. Train your brain to link your bed to the singular activity of sleeping.

### 7) Create a calming space

a) Ensure your room is cool and dark. Equip your bed with plenty of blankets to keep warm, comfortable pillows, and soft sheets. Try using aromatherapy diffusers, candles, or room sprays with relaxing scents like lavender. If you like background noise, try listening to sounds like a box fan or waves, lyricless music, or sleep stories. On the other hand, if noise disrupts your sleep, invest in a pair of earplugs.

# 8) <u>Limit usage of electronic devices for a couple hours before bedtime</u> to reduce mental stimulation

## 9) Create a sleep diary card

a) Include data like when you get into bed, when you fall asleep, how often you wake in the night, when you wake up, when you get out of bed, if you take naps, your exercise and eating habits, and what medications/supplements you take. This can help you find patterns and stick to the facts instead of making assumptions about the quality of your sleep.

### 10)Get up and try again

a) If you find that you still can't sleep after more than 20 minutes, get out of bed and engage in something relaxing and unstimulating. This might look like meditating on the floor with the lights off, doing some gentle stretches, or reading a book that is not exciting. After 20 minutes, get back into bed and relax with the assurance that after 20 more minutes, if sleep still escapes you, you can get back up and try again.

Habits that support quality sleep can differ from person to person. Experiment with these tips and other methods of relaxation to figure out what works best for you. Not being able to fall asleep can be frustrating, but cultivating healthy sleep hygiene can make this process easier so that your body can effectively rest and recover.

#### References:

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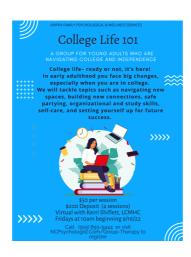
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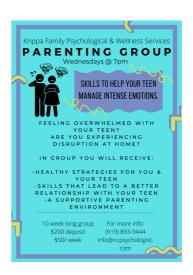
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#### **GROUP THERAPY:**

- We are currently offering numerous Groups for children, teens, and adults, including:
- 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
- INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT GROUP (11-18)







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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