Change Your Mind!

Teaching the Tools of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy

A programme for High School Students

By Tina Rae



PART 1

Problem Identification and Making Links

PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS....

Small Problem	How often it happens?	How does it affect you/others?
Medium Problem		
Big Problem		

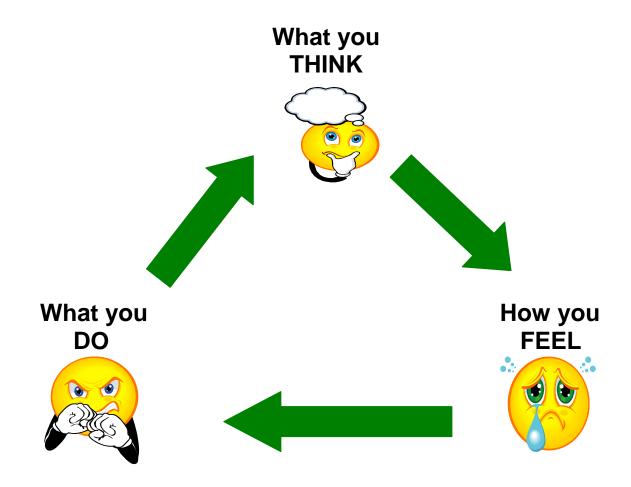
Sometimes our problems can seem to take over and our lives can seem very unhappy.
Which problem do you think you'd like to work on how and why?

COGNITIVE BEHAVIOUR THERAPY (CBT) Information Sheet (1)

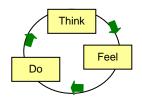


A set of tools to help you deal with problems and find the best solutions.

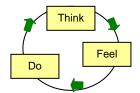
Looking at Links......



COGNITIVE BEHAVIOUR THERAPY (CBT) Information Sheet (2)



HOW do the LINKS work?



Some examples:

Think →	Feel →	Do →	
I'm useless at meeting new people	I feel scared and nervous when I meet new people	I don't talk to them and go quiet	
No one in my form likes me	I feel sad and angry	I avoid going out at break and start to bunk off school	
I'm rubbish at Maths	I feel dumb and fed up	I stop trying because I know I'll get it all wrong	

Statement: How you think about something will become true

STOP, THINK & REFLECT

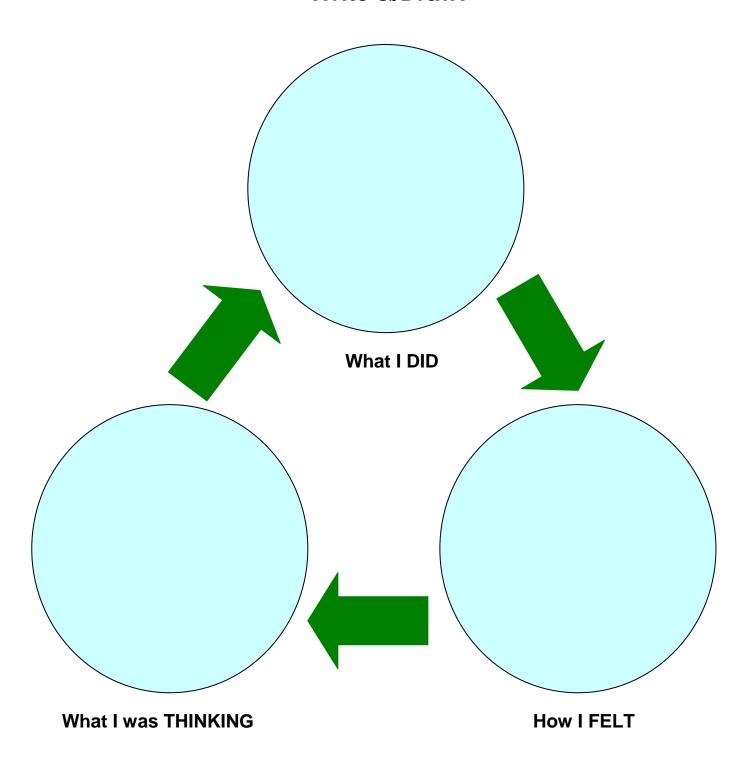
- Is this true?
- Can we change the way we think?
- Can we handle our problems differently to change how we feel and what we do?
- Can we gain more CONTROL over what happens to us in our lives?



A GOOD TIME!

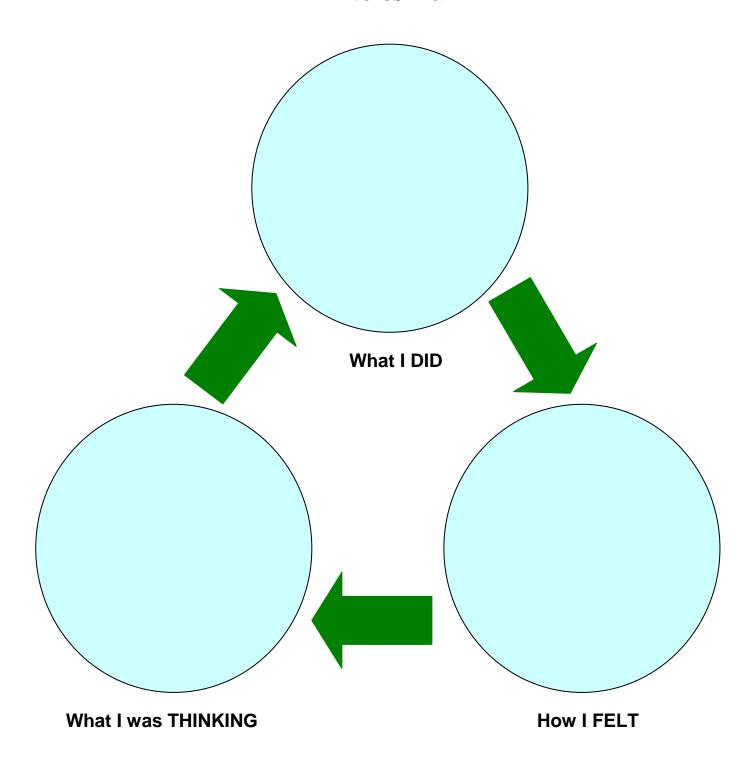


Think about your most recent good time. Write &/Draw:





Think about your most recent bad time. Write &/Draw:



Are you in a negative trap???

PART 2

Core Beliefs



10 CORE BELIEFS



What do you THINK about YOURSELF? WHO ARE YOU?

1. I think I am	
2. I think I am	
3. I think I am	
4. I think I am	
5. I think I am	
6. I think I am	
7. I think I am	
8. I think I am	
9. I think I am	
10. I think I am	

STOP, THINK & REFLECT!

How do your beliefs make you FEEL? How do your beliefs affect how you ACT? Do NEGATIVE core beliefs set you up to fail and limit what you do?

CORE BELIEFS QUIZ



Have a go at this quiz! What do you think will happen in each situation? Stop, think & reflect and then TALK it through.

IF THEN
If I am bad then
If I get it wrong then
If I work hard then
If I am kind then
If I have friends then
If I am good then
If I make people feel good then
If I don't have friends then
If I let people down then
If I think positively then

Which beliefs are HELPFUL? Why? Which beliefs are UNHELPFUL? Why?



THOUGHTS, FEELINGS AND ACTIONS???







Playing Football	Relaxed	I won't pass the test	Нарру
Angry	No one likes me	He doesn't like me	Eating breakfast
Going to school	Going to the shops	Excited	Swimming
I'm good at sums	Stressed	I'm useless at meeting new people	Scared
I'm lonely	Sleeping	She thinks I'm stupid	Nervous

PART 3

NAT's and PAT's

NAT's

Negative Automatic Thoughts

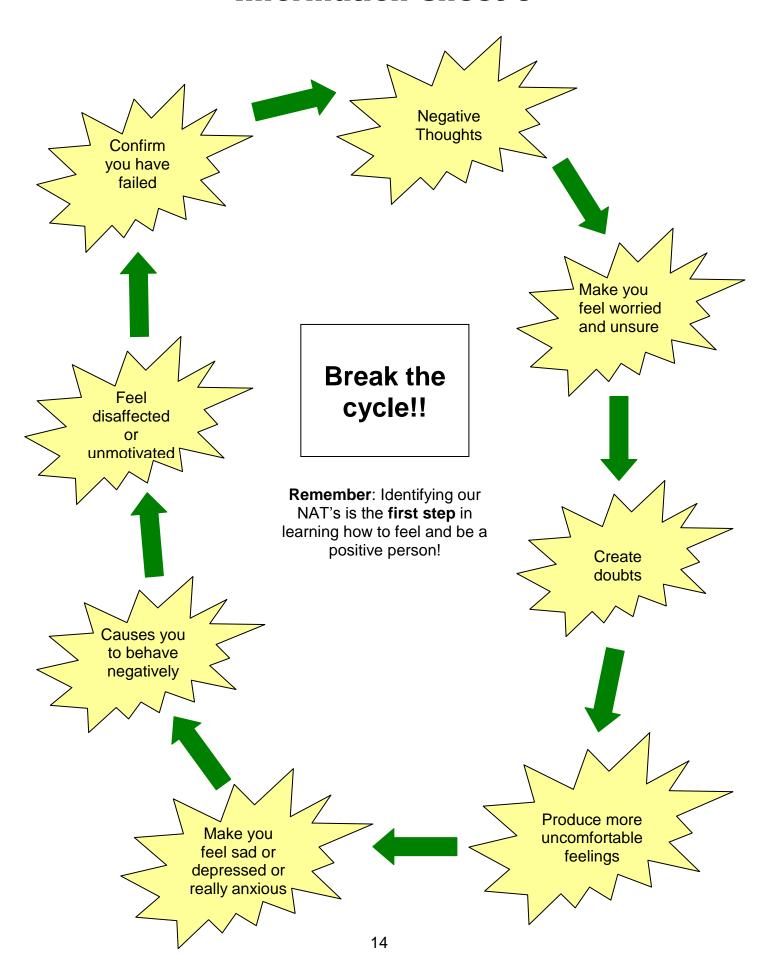
thoughts run through our heads in they just of the thoughts run through our heads in continuous stream all day.... they just of the they affect how we feel and behave



Negative specs! How do you see the world when you look through these.....
How do you SEE...

SEE YOURSELF	JUDGE YOURSELF	SEE THE FUTURE
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•

THE NEGATIVE CYCLE Information Sheet 3



TAKE HOME TASK My Thoughts and Feelings Diary

How were you feeling?
,



POSITIVES AND NEGATIVES



Stop, Think & Reflect!

PAT's	NAT's (Negative Automatic Thoughts)
(Positive Automatic Thoughts)	(Negative Automatic Thoughts)
What positive thoughts do you	What negative thoughts to you
have:	have:
(A) ABOUT YOU	(B) ABOUT YOU
(C) ABOUT YOUR FUTURE	(D) ABOUT YOUR FUTURE

PART 4

Faulty Thinking

FAULTY THINKING Information Sheet 4

There are 6 kinds of Faulty Thinking

(1) DOING DOWN!	(2) BLOWING UP!
 Only focus on negatives. Only see the bad bit in something that was good overall. Not counting a positive eg 'he only wants to go out with me because he can't find anyone else'. 	 Making things worse than they are. It's all or nothing eg I only got 78% and not 100% - it's not good enough! Magnifying the problem eg I got the answer wrong and everyone in the class laughed at me! It's a catastrophe! I'll never get over it!
(3) PREDICTING FAILURE!	(4) OVER EMOTIONAL THOUGHTS!
 Mind reading to predict failure eg I bet they are all laughing at me! I know he hates me! Fortune-telling – knowing you will fail eg I know I won't be able to do that work/I know they won't like me. 	 With this Faulty Thinking our emotions become very strong and cloud the way we think and understand things. Because we feel bad we presume everything is – the emotions takeover! We attach negative labels to ourselves eg l'm rubbish, stupid, a loser.
(5) SETTING YOURSELF UP!	(6) BLAME YOURSELF
 Setting targets too high and setting ourselves up to fail. I should, I must, I can't, I want, I shouldn't etc. Creating an impossible standard to achieve. 	Everything that goes wrong/is wrong is our fault – even, stuff we have no control over! Eg I got into my car and it broke down! I turned on the computer and it crashed!

HOW FAULTY IS YOUR THINKING? A Self-reflection Quiz

Rate yourself on a scale of 0-10 (0 = never, 5 = sometimes, 10 = all the time)

DOING DOWN!

Hov	w regula	arly do <u>y</u>	you lool	k for the	bad/neg	gative th	nings th	at happ	en?	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hov	w often	do you	think th	ings are	en't good	enoug	h?			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ηον	w often	do you	ignore	the good	d things	that hap	open?			
0	1	2	3	4	5	6 	7	8	9	10
Ηον	w regula	arly do <u>y</u>	you say	the goo	d things	weren	't 'that g	good'?		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
BL	OWING	UP!								
Hov	w often	do you	turn 1 r	negative	into a b	igger pı	roblem?	?		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ηον	w often	do you	feel tha	nt life is j	ust a ca	tastroph	ne?			
0	1	2	3	4	5 	6 	7	8	9	10
	_	•	•	e 'all or n d enoug	othing' t h!	hinking	? eg I c	only got	78% an	ıd
0	1	2	3	4	5	6 	7	8	9	10

How regularly do you think you know what other people are thinking about you? How regularly do you say 'I know things will go wrong'? **OVER EMOTIONAL THOUGHTS!** How often do you think 'I'm a really bad person'? How regularly do you think you can never do anything right? SETTING YOURSELF UP! How regularly do you say 'It's not good enough because it's not perfect'? How often do you think 'I should do it like that/be like that'? How often do you say 'I MUST!'? **BLAME YOURSELF!** How often do you say 'it's my fault' when things go wrong?

PREDICTING FAILURE!

PART 5

Find the Facts!





Test your thoughts by finding the EVIDENCE!

DAY and TIME	THOUGHT Rate how much you believe it 1-10 (10=totally)	EVIDENCE FOR the thought	EVIDENCE AGAINST the thought
	(Use the THOUGHT SCALE)		
(1)			
(2)			
(3)			
(4)			





Test your thoughts by finding the EVIDENCE!

THOUGHT	What my best friend would say to me?	What I would say to my best friend if they had this thought?	How much do I believe this thought now? 1-10 (10 = totally)
(1)			
(2)			
(3)			
(4)			



REFRAMING NEGATIVE THOUGHTS



We need to challenge our negative thoughts and always check out the evidence! How true are these thoughts and how can we change negative thoughts into more balanced thoughts? Have a GO at reframing these NAT's (the first one is done for you!)

NAT	REFRAME IT!
I can't do that sum!	That sum is difficult and I might find it hard but I can ask for help.
I always get left out at break time!	
I never look as good as everyone else!	
My work is the worst!	
She gave me a dirty look because she doesn't like me!	
I'm stupid and thick!	
I won't get picked for the team!	
It's always my fault!	
I'll fail this test!	
He thinks I'm rubbish!	



THOUGHT SCALE



(10)	Totally believe
(9)	
(8)	



Examine it!



Quite strongly believe (7)

Look for the Evidence!



(6)

(5)

Stop, Think & Reflect!



(4) Believe a bit

> Check it out with others!

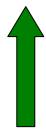


(3)





(0) Don't believe at all





KEY QUESTIONS



To test your thoughts!

- What is the evidence 'for' this thought?
- What is the evidence 'against' this thought?
- What would my best friend say if they heard my thought?
- What would my teacher say if he/she heard my thought?
- What would my parent/carer say if they heard my thought?
- What would I say to my best friend if he/she had this thought?
- Am I making any thinking mistakes? (eg blowing it up, forgetting my strengths or good points, self-blaming or predicting failure/thinking I know what others are thinking etc)

KEY POINTS

GET IT IN PERSPECTIVE!!

We need the evidence – check it out!

Be Realistic – life is not problem free!

Challenge and change your thinking to cope more effectively.

PART 6

More on your Core Beliefs

CORE BELIEFS

Knowing your CORE BELIEFS helps you to understand why you always end up thinking the same way and why you get STUCK IN that NEGATIVE state!

You can use the self-questioning technique to identify your core beliefs.

NAT → I only got 62% in the Maths test

Question: If this is true, what does it say about me?



I totally messed up Question: If this is true, what does it say about me?



I even get the easy ones right Question: If this is true, what does it say about me?



I get everything wrong Question: If this is true, what does it say about me?



I'm useless



My 4 Most Common Automatic Thoughts!



Identify your 4 <u>most</u> common automatic thoughts and use the 'AND SO' strategy....

Negative Thought 1	Negative Thought 2	
And so, if this were true, what would this say about me?	And so, if this were true, what would this say about me?	
And so, if this were true, what would this say about me?	And so, if this were true, what would this say about me?	
Negative Thought 3	Negative Thought 4	
And so, if this were true, what would this say about me?	And so, if this were true, what would this say about me?	
And so, if this were true, what would this say about me?	And so, if this were true, what would this say about me?	

Challenge that CORE BELIEF

CHOOSE 1 CORE BELIEF AND THINK ABOUT ALL THE EVIDENCE THAT MIGHT SUGGEST THIS IS NOT ALWAYS TRUE

CORE BELIEF	-:	
EVIDENCE AGAINST IT:		



Self-reflection Activity Common Beliefs

How much do you agree with these statements? Rate each out of 10

0 = not at all; 5 = sometimes; 10 = entirely

	Rating
1. I think it is good to be better than others at everything I do	10
2. Nobody loves me	10
3. Other people are much better than me	10
 I think it is important that my parents/carers are involved in everything I do 	
	10
5. I am a total failure	10
6. I am better than others	10
7. I am really special	10
8. I am not responsible for everything I do	10
9. I can show how I feel to others	10

PART 7

Thought Control!



Information Sheet Controlling Thoughts



FACTS

- We listen to our thoughts a lot
- We often accept negative thoughts as 'the truth' without really challenging them
- These thoughts can become louder and it becomes harder to hear the positive thoughts
- The more we listen to them, the more uncomfortable and down we fell and the less we do – it's a TRAP!!

THE SOLUTION: DISTRACTION

- Helps you take your mind off the negative thoughts
- Helps you take CONTROL of your thoughts by thinking of something else
- You DROWN OUT those negative thoughts by ensuring your mind does what YOU want it to!

STRATEGIES TO TRY

- Describing what you see
- Puzzle it out!
- Get absorbed
- Self-talking
- Top talk

- Worry box
- Turn it down!
- Test it!
- Bin them!

Test It!

 Identify the negative thought you most often have
 SCALE IT! Out of 10 for how strongly you believe this thought (0 = not strongly; 5 = quite strongly; 10 = extremely strongly)
10
 Design an EXPERIMENT! What test could you set up to see if this is true?
When will you do this?
 If you think your negative thought is true, what do you think will happen?
AFTERWARDS
What DID happen?

• How much/strongly do you now believe this thought?

My Positive Scroll

Sometimes we forget to think about the positive or good things that happen – NOT GOOD!! Every evening, think of 1 thing (at least) that has happened that made you feel good. Record these on your positive scroll. At the end of the week LOOK at the list – now you'll know that positive things really do happen to you!



Try It out! Experiment!!



 THE WORRY BOX! Write the NATs down Find a box and make your own worry box Post them away At the end of the week, open the box and discuss these worries with someone you trust! 	 TURN IT DOWN! Imagine a tape recorder Describe it – size, controls and how you turn the volume up and down Practice changing the controls When you realise you are starting to listen to your negative thoughts, turn the volume down or turn if off altogether 	
I will use this when	I will use this when	
DESCRIBING WHAT YOU SEE! Stop the NAT and simply describe in detail what you see Use colours, size, shapes, smells, textures etc You will then start to feel calmer Repeat if the NAT comes back I will use this when	PUZZLE IT OUT! Set yourself a puzzle to distract yourself Count backwards from 250 Name all your favourite bands Spell the names of all your friends/family backwards I will use this when	
 SELF-TALKING! Stop the NAT and change your thought pattern Stop listening to doubts Formulate a Positive Coping Message for yourself Repeat this until you have stopped the NAT! 	 BIN THEM! Empty your head of those negative thoughts Write them down (or type into your computer) Screw them up Bin them! 	
I will use this when	I will use this when	

Focus on Feelings 1



Information Sheet Focus on Feelings



Learning to IDENTIFY FEELINGS is important – then you can learn how to control them more effectively (eg relaxation strategies such as breathing exercises may help with feelings of stress or anxiety but not with feelings of sadness.)

LOOK for the SYMPTOMS!

STRESS	UNHAPPINESS
 Feel sick Short breathing Butterflies Sweating Light headed Weary/jelly legs Muscle ache Mind goes blank Can't make decisions Red face Feel like fainting 	 Tearful Crying for no apparent reason Can't sleep Wake up early No energy and always tired No appetite/overreacting Lack of concentration No interest in things you like Don't want to go out/join in

ANGER

- Screaming/shouting
- Swearing and threatening
- Breaking stuff
- Slamming doors
- Throwing things
- Hitting/fighting/kicking
- Want to harm yourself

STOP, THINK & REFLECT

- Tearful
- Crying for no apparent reason
- Can't sleep
- Wake up early
- No energy and always tired
- No appetite/overreacting
- Lack of concentration
- No interest in things you like
- Don't want to go out/join in

THOUGHTS That make me feel positive!	THOUGHTS That make me feel negative!
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u></u>	<u> </u>
	<u></u>
ACTIVITIES That make me feel positive!	ACTIVITIES That make me feel negative!
That make me feel positive!	That make me feel negative!
That make me feel positive!	That make me feel negative!



Feeling Search

Try to find these FEELINGS in the Feeling Search

Нарру	Angry	Excited	Scared	Sad
Anxious	Tense	Ashamed	Hurt	Guilty
Frightened	Nervous	Calm	Depressed	Worried
Bullied	Thrilled	Relaxed	Upset	thrilled

t	h	u	r	t	V	h	J	h	а	р	р	у	а
h	а	b	u			i	е	d	0	е	n	р	S
r	а	n	g	r	У	t	u	t	е	n	S	е	h
i	0	k	n	е	r	٧	0	u	S	X	а	q	а
	t	h	r	i			е	d	С	S	d	u	m
	b	f	r	i	g	h	t	е	n	е	d		е
е	d	t	d	V	b	а	n	X	i	0	u	S	d
d	е	X	С	i	t	е	d	n	W	а	p	С	
g	е	а	р	r	е		а	X	е	d	S	а	у
r	S	f	k	g	u	i		t	У	W	е	r	m
Χ	а	а	0	W	0	r	r	i	е	d	t	е	b
	d	е	р	r	е	S	S	е	d	r	u	d	t





When Do I Feel??? 👩





What to do:

We can feel differently in different places. How do you feel in each situation? Draw an arrow from each feeling to the situation that causes you to feel this way.

FEELING

Sad	Angry
Excited	Calm
Scared	Worried
Upset	Nervous
Tense	Bored
Fed-up	Frustrated
Relaxed	Confused
Comfortable	Secure

SITUATION

With my Mum or Dad/carer
At night in bed
Out at the shops
At home
At school
With friends at school
On my own
Doing homework

Focus on Feelings 2



My Feelings



Thought-storm! Write down all the FEELINGS you have under 2 headings: COMFORTABLE and UNCOMFORTABLE – choose colours for your feelings eg red for anger, yellow for happy etc. DESIGN A POSTER to show all these feelings and how much you have of each one.

Me
And my feelings



Feeling Self-reflection Activity

What happens when I feel ... ?

	Think about something that makes you feel										
How would others know you felt like this?											
	How	does	your fa	ce look	?						
	How	does	your bo	ody sho	w this	s feeling	?		:	***************************************	
	How	do yo	ou beha	ve whe	n you	feel like	this?		•	N.O.L	
	How	much	n of the	time do	you t	feel this	way?				
Ne	ever <u>0</u>	1	2	3	4_	5	6	7	8	All the tim	e <u>0</u>
	Com	plete	this self	-reflect	ion a	ctivity for	r the foll	lowing f	eelings:		
			angry	sa	d	happy	anx	rious	excite	d	



The Main Events



List the main places, people and activities in your life. Then record the feelings that go with each of these on the chart below.

Place, person/activity	Feelings

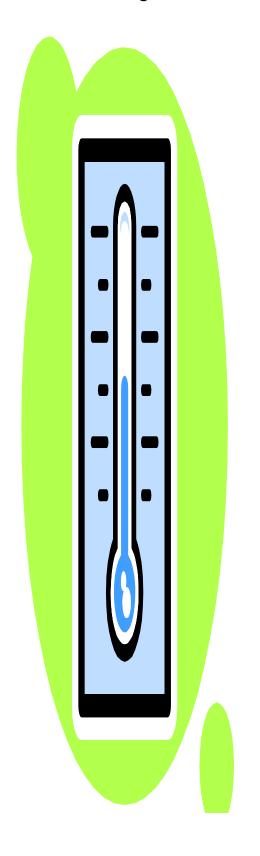
Which gives you the most comfortable feelings? Which gives you the most uncomfortable feelings?



Feeling Barometer



Use the feeling barometer to show how STRONG your feeling is.



10 Extremely Strong

9

8

7 Fairly Strong

6

5

4

3 Weak

2

1

0 Very weak

Control those Feelings!



Information Sheet



You have identified some of the places you go to or things you do that produce STRONG or UNCOMFORTABLE FEELINGS.



Generally – we try to do things/go places/be with people that make us feel comfortable. We tend to AVOID the things that make us feel uncomfortable.

The BIG BUT!

Sometimes our feelings TAKE OVER and STOP us doing what we really want to do.

- You may want to go to the party but you feel so NERVOUS you can't make yourself go.
- You may want to see your friends but you feel so WORRIED about going you just can't see them.

WE NEED TO CONTROL THESE FEELINGS TO BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS!

Learn the strategies! Try them out! Don't give up!



Relax!A 10 Minute Strategy!



Tense each of the major muscle groups in your body for about 5-10 seconds and then RELAX. Some parts of your body may be more tense than others. Try to find these and pay more attention to them.

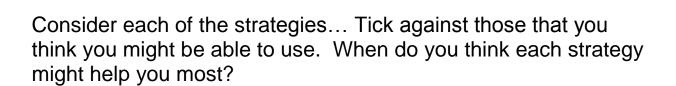
PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!

- Choose a quiet, warm and comfortable place
- Sit in a comfy chair or lie on your bed
- Make sure you won't be disturbed
- Tense your muscles in
 - (a) your arms

- (e) your shoulders
- (b) your hands
- (f) your neck
- (c) your legs and feet
- (g) your face
- (d) your stomach
- Tense for 5-10 seconds and then relax
- Repeat
- Close your eyes and count slowly to 100

Keep a Relaxation Diary for 1 week. Use this strategy when you begin to feel stressed or fed-up. Then reflect! How useful was this? How did it help?





PHYSICAL EXERCISE A good walk, run or swim can help you to get rid of angry or anxious feelings.	CONTROLLED BREATHING Slowly breath in, hold for 5-10 seconds and then slowly let out the breath. As you do this, say 'RELAX' to yourself.		
CALMING PICTURES			
Visualise a special place in your mind – somewhere really restful and peaceful. Turn this picture on when you feel uncomfortable.	READING Read a book – escape into a fantasy world to relax. □ Yes/No		
LISTENING TO MUSIC Listen to your favourite music – something that makes you feel happy and relaxed and takes your mind off the problem.	WALKING/RUNNING (with or without the dog!) Go out for a walk with the dog and clear your mind of the stress. □ Yes/No		
_ :35,3			



My Personal Relaxation Strategies

Thought-storm! What makes me relax and feel calm!



Make a **Relaxation Plan** – identify your 3 most stressful situations and the strategies you would now use to try to keep calmer and stay more relaxed in each situation. Try them out!

Changing Behaviour



Daily Diary Format

Keep a daily diary. Record your activities and how you felt. Use the Feelings Barometer to rate the strength of each feeling.

What I did	How I felt
7.00am	
8.00	
9.00	
10.00	
11.00	
12.00	
1.00pm	
2.00	
3.00	
4.00	
5.00	
6.00	
7.00	
8.00	
9.00	
10.00	
11.00	

Climb the Mountain

Write or draw all your goals/things you would like to do on a piece of paper. Cut them out and then arrange them on the mountain below. Place the ones that seem easiest to achieve at the bottom, the most difficult at the top and the slightly easier ones in the middle. NEXT – start with the first and easiest task – when you've achieved it, climb a little further up the mountain and try the next one. Remember – take SMALL steps to reach the TOP!



Change Your Behaviour - Change Your Life!

Things I would like to do MORE often!

Write or draw on the chart below





Take up the Challenge

My Main Challenge:
Stage 1 – My Steps to Succeed are:
•
•
Stago 2 - My Coping Solf-talk is:
Stage 2 – My Coping Self-talk is:
Stage 3 – Visualise Yourself being Successful
Repeat your coping self-talk while you imagine reaching your 1 st step!
Keep practising this
Stage 4 – Experiment!
Stage 4 – Experiment:
Pick a time to face your fear or challenge – TRY IT OUT – take your first
step and use your self-talk
Stage 5 - Reward!
Treat yourself for being successful

Don't give up! Keep going!

Break the steps down into smaller ones if you don't succeed at first!



Bin It!



Bin that bad habit! Use SMALL STEPS

•	Write down all your 'bad' habits and put them in order – easiest to stop at the bottom and hardest at the top
•	Pick one HABIT to dump
•	Record your SMALL STEPS to SUCCESS
•	How will you keep calm? What is your coping self-talk?
•	Who else can help or support you and how?

Have a go! Reward yourself and don't give up! Go for it!

Problem Solver



Focus on Solutions

The problem is			
List all the ways you could SOLVE this problem:			
I could solve this by			
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

NEXT STEP Ask someone else how you could solve the problem. Record their ideas on the reverse of the sheet.



A Balanced View



Write down a key problem and list all the solutions you have worked on. THINK AHEAD! What would be the positive and negative consequences of each solution? Complete the consequences chart below.

Solution	Positive Consequences	Negative Consequences

NOW – STOP, THINK & REFLECT! Look at the consequences and make your decision. Which SOLUTION would be the best one for your particular problem?



When you keep experiencing the same problem, find someone else who copes with it! Talk through their strategies and steps to success! Answer the following QUESTIONS:

What is this problem?
Who has successfully coped with this problem?
How do they do this?
When can I discuss their plan?
 What will my own plan then look like and when will I try it out?
How will I reward myself for being successful?

Traffic Lights

Use the Stepped Approach to solving your problems

