

## What is Self-Care?

Self-care is the practice of taking action to preserve or improve one's own health. Self-care practices can be used to promote your physical, mental, social and emotional health and well-being. During times of stress, our overall health tends to decline. Utilizing self-care practices helps us stay healthy and able to handle stress better. As adults/parents, if we are practicing self-care, we will be better able to care for our children as well as teach them proper self-care habits.



#### **10 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR LIFE BETTER**



# Good vs. Bad Self-Care Strategies

Many people often misunderstand what good self-care strategies look like. They think that having some dessert, watching your favorite show, or playing video games is practicing good self-care. While those things are fine once in a while, and might make you happy in the moment, they aren't benefitting your overall well-being long-term. When we talk about practicing good self-care, we talk about the things we can do to positively impact our overall health. Below you will find a list of some self-care strategies and activities you can use to boost your physical, mental, social and emotional health.

# **Self-Care Strategies**

- Physical
  - o Getting enough sleep
  - o Sticking to a daily routine or schedule
  - Waking up and going to sleep at the same time each day
  - o Sticking to a healthy diet
  - Spending time outdoors with nature
  - Exercising regularly
  - o Limit screen-time
  - o Yoga

### Social-Emotional

- Spending time with family and friends
  - Go to a movie
  - Go out to eat
  - Play a card or board game
  - Go to the mall
  - Do an escape room
  - Play a sport
- Practice Mindfulness
  - Yoga
  - Breathing exercises
  - Progressive Muscle Relaxation
- Do some reflective journaling
- o Find ways to process your emotions
  - Talk to family or friends about your feelings
  - Go to counseling or therapy
  - Keep a feelings log
- $\circ$  Any activities that relax you
- Say no when you need to

#### Mental

- Find activities to stimulate your brain
  - Crossword puzzles
  - Word searches
  - Sudoku
  - Trivia
  - Read
  - Escape rooms



