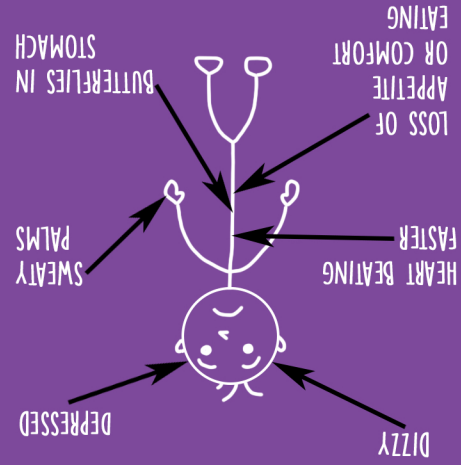


EVERYBODY EXPERIENCES STRESS. IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL TO FEEL STRESSED BEFORE AN EXAM OR AN INTERVIEW. STARTING A NEW SCHOOL OR JOB CAN BE STRESSFUL TOO. THAT'S OK. BUT IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING **EXTREME STRESS** ON A **FREQUENT BASIS** **WITHOUT ANY SUPPORT** THAT IS GOING TO HAVE A DAMAGING EFFECT ON YOUR BODY.

STRESS ISN'T ALWAYS BAD!

POSITIVE
NORMAL AND ESSENTIAL PART OF HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT. E.G. SITTING AN EXAM OR GETTING AN INJECTION.
TOLERABLE
SERIOUS TEMPORARY STRESS BUFFERED BY SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS. E.G. DEATH OF A LOVED ONE.
TOXIC
STRONG, FREQUENT AND/OR PROLONGED ADVERSITY. E.G. PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE.

3 TYPES OF STRESS



FEELING STRESSED?

WHAT IS TOXIC STRESS?
"IT'S LIKE A CONSTANT PRESSURE, SOMETHING THAT IS ALWAYS ON YOUR MIND. ALMOST LIKE A DARK CLOUD OVER YOUR HEAD I GUESS."

“ THIS LEAFLET WAS MADE BY YOUNG PEOPLE, FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HELPED TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN! ”



POSITIVE COPING STRATEGIES

"TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS. DON'T KEEP IT INSIDE YOU!"

IF YOU'RE FEELING STRESSED OUT TRY TALKING TO:

- A CLOSE FRIEND OR FRIENDS
- SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY
- A TEACHER, DOCTOR, YOUTH WORKER
- CHILDLINE: 0800 1111
- LIFELINE: 0808 808 8000

A YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO STRESS & RESILIENCE

NO NONSENSE TIPS AND ADVICE. :)

CAUSES OF TOXIC STRESS

A NUMBER OF THINGS ARE MORE LIKELY TO CAUSE TOXIC STRESS IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. THESE THINGS INCLUDE:

ABUSE



PHYSICAL

NEGLECT



PHYSICAL

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



MENTAL ILLNESS



INCARCERATED RELATIVE



EMOTIONAL



EMOTIONAL



MOTHER TREATED VIOLENTLY



DIVORCE



SEXUAL



SUBSTANCE MISUSE

EFFECTS OF TOXIC STRESS

TOXIC STRESS IS VERY DANGEROUS AND IT CAN HAVE LIFE-CHANGING NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON YOUR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH. IF YOU EXPERIENCE A LOT OF TOXIC STRESS IN YOUR LIFE AS A CHILD YOU ARE MORE LIKELY TO:

- HAVE INTERCOURSE AT A YOUNG AGE
- TAKE UP SMOKING
- DEVELOP LUNG DISEASE OR HEART DISEASE
- BECOME DIABETIC
- MISUSE DRUGS
- DEVELOP LIVER DISEASE
- BECOME DEPRESSED
- ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE

THE GOOD NEWS: RESILIENCE

THE GOOD NEWS IS: THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO COMBAT TOXIC STRESS. THIS IS CALLED RESILIENCE.

RESILIENCE CHANGES TOXIC STRESS INTO TOLERABLE STRESS. RESILIENCE HELPS US TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND NOT JUST SURVIVE BUT ACTUALLY THRIVE AND FLOURISH.

TOP TIPS FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE

- IF POSSIBLE, REMOVE YOURSELF FROM THE SITUATION
- SPEAK TO AN ADULT YOU TRUST
- ACCEPT THAT CHANGE IS A PART OF LIVING
- TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
- PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR OWN NEEDS AND FEELINGS
- TRY DEEP BREATHING OR MINDFULNESS
- KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE
- GET AT LEAST 8 HOURS SLEEP
- EAT HEALTHY FOOD AND STAY ACTIVE
- HANG OUT WITH YOUR MATES AND SHARE YOUR PROBLEMS WITH THEM
- DO THINGS YOU LOVE; SPORT, MUSIC, READING, WATCHING MOVIES ETC.
- IT'S OK TO TALK!

IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER, PHONE THE POLICE ON 999 OR TALK TO SOMEONE BY CALLING LIFELINE ON 0808 800 8000.

WHEN I'M STRESSED I ...

- "GO FOR A WALK AND CLEAR MY HEAD." SHARON, 19.
- "DRINK A CUP OF TEA." SIMON, 13.
- "GO TO THE GYM AND LISTEN TO MUSIC." HARRY, 17.
- "TALK TO A FRIEND." MICA, 15.
- "GO FOR A WALK OR EXERCISE." RICARDO, 16.
- "TAKE 5 AND HAVE A NICE CUP OF TEA." EMMA, 17.
- "TAKE MY DOGS FOR A WALK." NIKKI, 20.
- "PUT MY HEADPHONES IN AND LISTEN TO MUSIC." THOMAS, 17.
- "GO TO THE CINEMA, WATCH T.V., OR PLAY VIDEO GAMES." - AARON, 16.