

Abdominal Pain Resource Pack[©]

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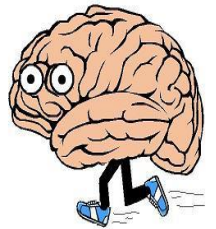
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What is Pain?

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This pack is aimed at children and young people who have long lasting abdominal (tummy) pain. When a physical cause cannot be seen on a test or a scan, it is called 'Functional pain', because it affects your functioning (what you are able to do).



Most pain is like a warning, it is your body's way of telling you that you are either hurt, or about to be hurt. This warning allows you to do something to prevent further pain. For example, when you touch something hot, the pain makes you move your hand to stop you burning yourself.

After you have injured yourself, e.g. if you break your leg, your brain can keep sending pain messages for a while, even when things have healed. The pain does not mean that your leg is still damaged.

So, sometimes, pain sticks around longer than it needs to and sometimes there is no actual injury or problem causing the pain, but it is still real. The usual medical treatment of pain relief does not work very well for this kind of pain. When this happens, the brain seems to be confused, sending pain messages when it doesn't need to!

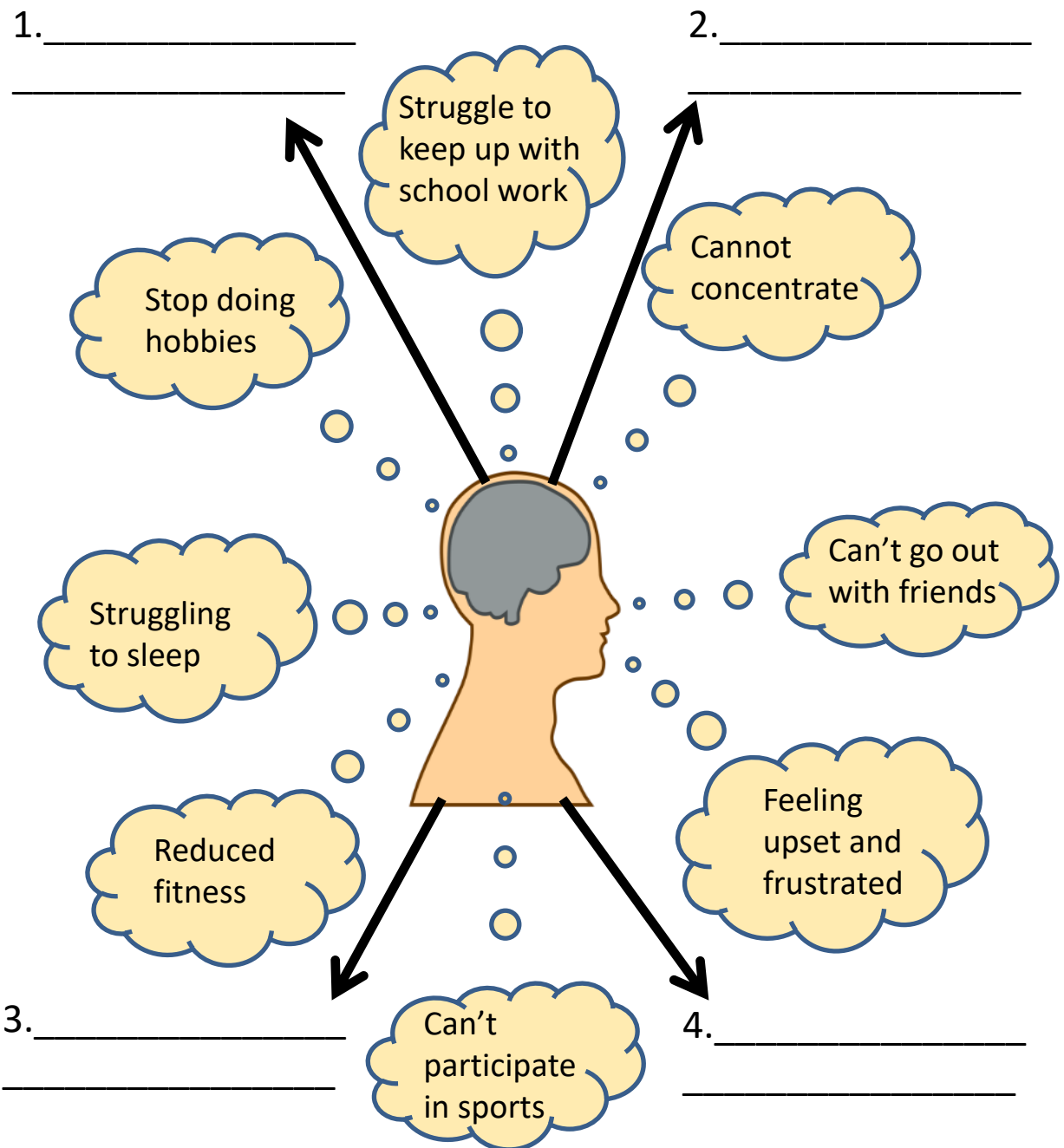
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How Does Your Pain Affect You? (4)

Living with pain can be difficult. It can affect the things you do, it can also impact the way you feel and think, as well as your relationships with friends and family.

Have a look at the examples below of how pain can affect young people. Use the blank spaces to write other ways in which pain has affected your life.



Functional Abdominal Pain

5



What Is Functional Abdominal Pain?

Functional abdominal pain is a type of **chronic pain**, it is relatively common and reported in up to 18% of young people. It is a condition where children and young adults experience frequent periods of abdominal (tummy) pain over an extended period of time. Chronic means lasting more than a few weeks.

Functional means that there is no physical blockage, infection or inflammation causing the pain. Nevertheless, the pain is **real** and can be distressing for both children and adults. Like all pain, abdominal pain can affect your thoughts, feelings, and behaviour in many situations.

What Are The Symptoms Of Functional Abdominal Pain?

Children with functional abdominal pain often experience pain in the stomach or bowel area. They usually do not have any other signs of illness, such as a temperature, weight loss, or blood in their poo. Sometimes the pain may be associated with episodes of diarrhoea and constipation, or vomiting, but this is not the **cause** of the pain.

Functional abdominal pain is sometimes associated with other symptoms such as headaches, limb pain, and sleep disturbances.

What Causes Functional Abdominal Pain?

The exact cause of functional abdominal pain is largely unknown, although the condition has been studied a lot by researchers and medical professionals. Many practitioners agree that biological and psychological factors interact to maintain the pain; it is possible that pain is due to overly sensitive nerves in the gut. The gut has a massive network of nerves which send signals to the brain when we are hungry, full, or ill. This is called **The Gut-Brain Axis**. Sometimes these messages can be influenced by things outside the gut and misinterpreted by the brain. For example, it is common for children and young adults to not feel hungry on the morning of an exam. Others may need to vomit, or visit the toilet frequently.

The symptoms are **real** and are especially difficult to manage in stressful or anxiety-provoking situations, but it is important to remember that they are not caused by a physical disease.

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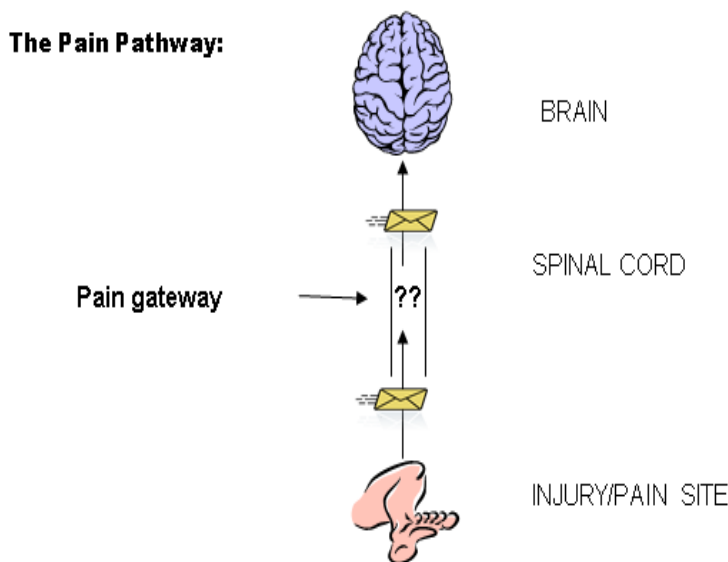
The Pain Gate (6)

The sensation of pain is affected by both physical and psychological processes. Signals from nerve endings in the nervous system pass through a neural 'gate' in the spinal cord before being passed to the brain. The 'gate' is what determines how much pain we feel.

The more open the gate is, the more pain we feel.

Factors that open the gate:

1. **Stress and Tension** – All sorts of emotional states can lead to the gates to pain being more open. These include being anxious, worried, angry, and sad. Having a lot of tension in the body is a common way of opening the pain gates.
2. **Focusing on the pain** – Pain can feel worse when we concentrate on it a lot.
3. **Lack of Activity** – Not moving or and stopping our normal activities can make pain worse. It can also reduce our fitness levels.



The more closed the gate is, the less pain we feel.

Factors that close the gate:

1. **Relaxation and Contentment** – Feeling generally happy and optimistic has been found to help close the pain gate.
2. **Psychological Factors** - Feeling relaxed and content, possibly by doing relaxation exercises (see worksheets following page 13), keeping your mind busy and distracted with other things, and focusing your attention on doing things that are important to you (rather than focusing on the pain and gloomy thoughts associated with it).
3. **Activity** – Being active but not overdoing it so you develop your fitness (see 'Pacing' worksheet, page 9)
4. **Other Physical Factors** – some types of counter-stimulation (heat, massage, and acupuncture) may help.

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Opening and Closing The Pain Gate 7

Factors	Things That Open The Pain Gate, Causing Pain. 	Things That Close The Pain Gate, Reducing Pain. 
Physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tensing muscles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stretching. • Applying a heat pad on the abdomen. • Relaxation exercises.
Activity/Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much or too little activity. • Focusing attention on the pain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacing activity level (see pacing worksheet on page 9). • Participating in enjoyable activities. • Doing things that are in line with your values, despite your pain. • Distraction – thinking about and doing something different.
Emotions/Feelings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress and tension. • Feeling sad. • Feeling anxious. • Feeling angry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling calm and relaxed. • Being more able to cope with strong emotions.
Thoughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking about how you cannot control or stop the pain. • Thinking about how the pain has affected your life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking helpful thoughts, such as reminding yourself of different ways you can manage your pain. • Distraction – thinking about, and doing, something different.
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation – being on your own. • Avoiding spending time with family and friends because of your pain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending time with people who care about you.

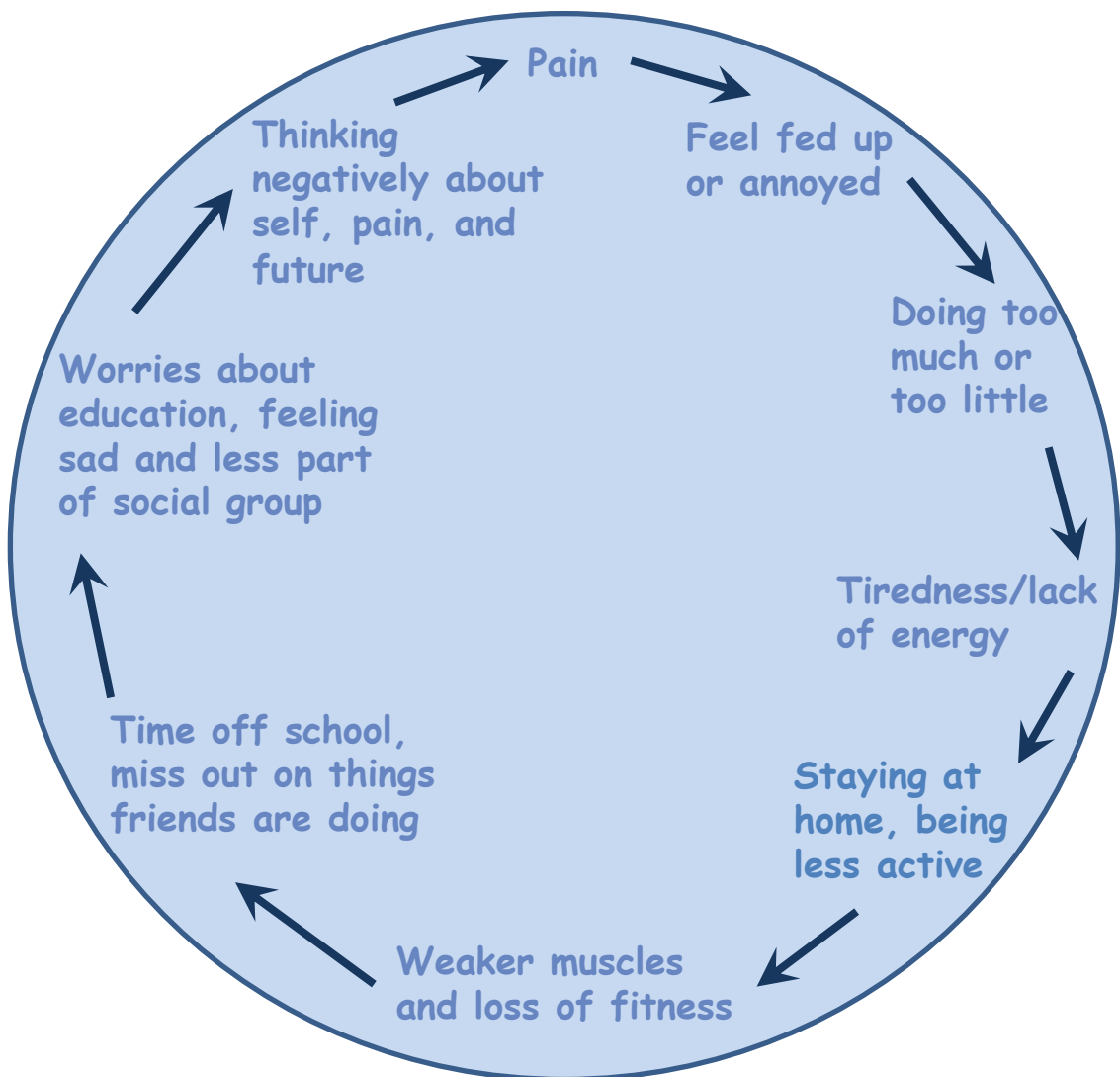
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The Pain Cycle

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Long-term pain can create a cycle in which we feel trapped. The first step to breaking out of the pain cycle is to understand what it actually is! By understanding the pain cycle, we can start to see that there are a number of things that can be done to help manage your pain.



As you can see, pain can affect you in many different ways. It affects your thoughts, feelings, body, and behaviour. This is why medication does not work as well for chronic/long-term pain, as it focuses on the physical symptoms. It is important to think about thoughts, feelings, and behaviours too as they all affect the experience of pain.

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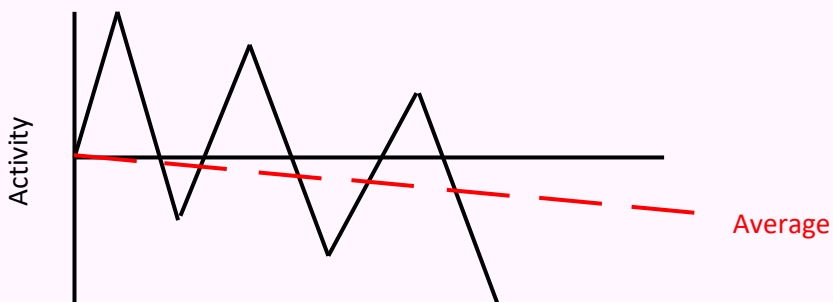
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Changing How I Cope With Pain: Doing Too Much or Too Little

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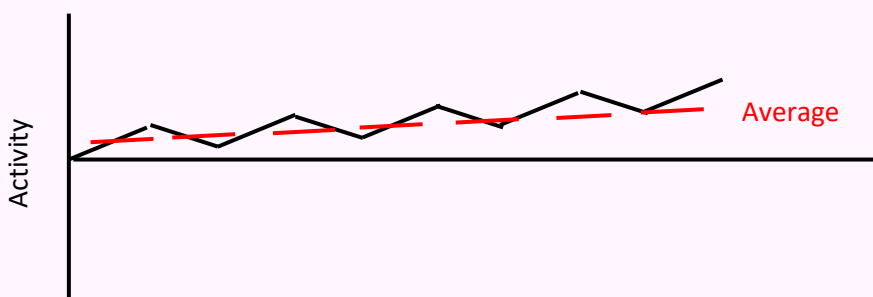
Pacing

Some people who suffer with long-term abdominal pain choose to do less activity. This makes sense, however, it can result in you missing out on important and fun activities. However, we know that missing out can negatively impact your mood. Some people try to stay very active on days they feel better. Again, this approach makes sense but can be counterproductive. You may push yourself too hard and end up suffering, resulting in exhaustion and low-mood. This is referred to as a **boom and bust pattern**:



Pacing is a skill which enables you to consistently carry out activities without causing excessive tiredness or inactivity. Pacing is the middle ground between doing nothing and doing too much. Over time you may notice that pacing enables you to do more.

1. Choose an activity, such as seeing your friends or school work.
2. Measure the length of time you feel physically and emotionally comfortable doing this. Do this at least 3 separate times on good and bad days.
3. Take the average of these times. This helps you find your comfortable starting point (amount of time) to spend on these activities. Try to stick to this time, no more and no less.



Remember:

- Pacing can give you more control.
- Pacing is about judging when to stop an activity based on **time** and not mood.
- The comfortable starting point should be used on both good, and bad days. It is normal to find it difficult to limit yourself on good days.
- Using a comfortable starting point leads to improved tolerance and achievement.

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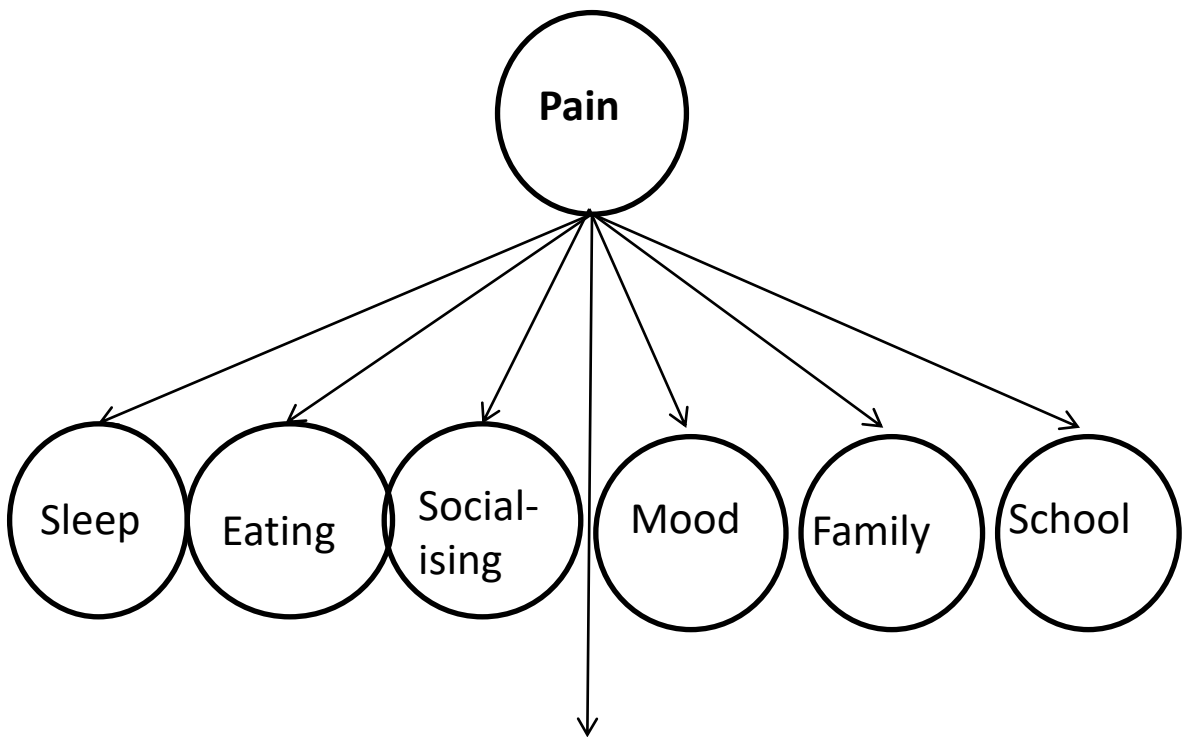
Planning Future Goals

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1. Consider areas that you want to change or improve.
2. Try to set goals you are capable of achieving using determination. Do not underestimate your ability!
3. Have faith in yourself - your thoughts can affect how you physically feel!
4. Write down your goals. It will help you to see what you have achieved.
5. Do not panic if you do not achieve your goal. Think about why. Perhaps you need to add in smaller step to achieve the long term goal?
6. Reward yourself when you achieve a goal!

Areas To Think About When Planning Future Goals, For Reducing The Impact Of Pain



Write down any other areas of your life that have been impacted by your pain:

Changing How I Cope with Abdominal Pain 11

When we experience abdominal pain, we can often stop doing things that we used to enjoy. However, avoiding things often makes us feel worse in the long-term.

1. The first step is to think about things you have stopped doing/are doing less/are avoiding as a result of your abdominal pain. Make a note below of things you are avoiding because of how you are feeling.

Things around the home:
Things at work or school:
Hobbies and interests:
Social activities with friends and family:
Anything else?

2. Once you have filled in Section 1, the next step is to plan how easy it would be to start doing some of the avoided activities again. It may seem overwhelming in the beginning, however, it is much easier if you break the process down into smaller steps. Create a ladder (hierarchy) of things you avoid with the ones you are most anxious about at the top, and the ones that bother you less at the bottom. Try to include a good mix of the things you wrote down in Section 1. Start to tackle your fears and your abdominal pain by starting at the bottom of the ladder and gradually working your way through each step. Before completing each task, write down what you **think** will happen, and follow this up by writing down what **actually** happened after task completion. Hopefully you will start to see that it is mostly not as bad as you think it is going to be.

	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Difficulty (0-10)</u>
	Example: playing rugby again	10 (most difficult)
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	Example: texting a friend	1 (least difficult)
	_____	_____

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SMART Goals 12

Having abdominal pain can cause you to stop taking part in activities you enjoy. Goal setting is about working out what you would like to be able to do, and working towards achieving it. Goal setting is a powerful way of improving your quality of life and sense of control. It is important that goals are meaningful to you and feel good.

Specific: clearly state what you would like to happen

Measurable: will you be able to say it was achieved?

Achievable: are you able to complete the task independently?

Realistic: are you going to do it?

Timely: think whether it is 'the right time' to do this. Set yourself a realistic time limit to achieve this goal.

Specific

To create a specific goal it must answer the 6 'W's.

1. **WHO** is this goal for/who is involved in it?
2. **WHAT** is it that needs to be accomplished?
3. **WHERE** should this goal take place?
4. **WHEN** will this goal be completed, or how long will it take?
5. **WHICH** things or requirements, and constraints, need to be identified?
6. **WHY** does this goal need to be accomplished?
What is its purpose?

For example:

'I want to use Progressive Muscle Relaxation to help manage my pain' as a SMART goal would be:

'I want to use Progressive Muscle Relaxation 30 minutes, everyday at home for one month, to reduce my symptom severity'.

Timely

An important factor in achieving your goals is seeing the progress you have made. Set a time limit to complete your goal. For example, practice progressive muscle relaxation for 30 minutes each day, for a month before you tackle another goal. Write down your progress, seeing progress can motivate and encourage you.

Measurable

Measurable goals make it easier to stay on track to meeting your goals. Questions like 'how much', or 'how many', or 'how will I tell if I met my goal' is a good way to determine what to measure. For example, practicing Progressive Muscle Relaxation for 30 minutes everyday is quantifiable and measurable. You can track your progress and see results.

Realistic

When you are coping with abdominal pain you need to have goals which are realistic and reasonable. It is easy to get ahead of yourself. Sometimes people fall into the trap of getting overwhelmed by goals which seem impossible. Make a realistic goal by breaking into smaller goals.

A goal is something that you are motivated to work towards and achieve. When you are working on activity levels, it is important to set goals that can help to both motivate you, as well as direct your efforts and energy.

Doing more

Mood can be greatly affected by what we do, when we do it, and with whom.

Keep track of what you do each day and make sure you are spending your time doing enough things that give you a sense of:

A - achievement

C - closeness to others

E - enjoyment

Being mindful of these 3 things when goal setting may help you to set meaningful SMART goals.

Doing more also allows less time for negative and unhelpful thoughts and overthinking, which will have a positive effect on mood.

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Contents: Guided Self Help Worksheets



Calming The Body - Feeling relaxed can help reduce symptom severity

Progressive Muscle Relaxation (PMR).....(See p.14)

Muscle tension is commonly associated with stress and anxiety, it is the bodies natural response to potentially dangerous situations. Even when there is no danger, our bodies can still respond in the same way. You may not always realise that your muscles are tense, it may be as subtle as your jaw clenching, or as obvious as your shoulders feeling really tight and hunched. PGR is a deep relaxation technique which is based upon the simple practice of tensing one muscle group at a time . This is followed by a relaxation phase with release of tension. This is very useful before bedtime.

Deep Breathing.....(See p.15)

During deep breathing your blood is oxygenated, triggering the release of endorphins, whilst also decreasing the release of stress hormones, and slowing down your heart rate.

Calming The Mind - Strategies for managing the anxiety and stress that is often associated with abdominal pain



Worry Tree.....(See p.16)

Worry Trees are helpful in reducing levels of anxiety surrounding both hypothetical situations and current problems.

Visualisation.....(see p.17)

Help yourself to feel more relaxed by thinking about things that make you feel calm and rested. For example, picturing your favourite place. This can be either independent, or you can take a guided visualisation approach. A guided visual imagery relaxation task has been provided in this pack.

Safe Place Visualisation.....(see p.18)

A powerful stress reduction and relaxation tool, that can be applied at any time, in any location.

Self-Soothing Strategies.....(see p. 19)

This is a useful technique for remaining grounded in the present, to alleviate symptoms of stress and anxiety.

Developing Coping-Self Talk.....(see p.20)

These are phrases that you can say to yourself that are supportive. For example “Just because it has happened before it does not mean it will happen again”

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Progressive Muscle Relaxation

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1

Get comfortable in a distraction free environment. You can either lay down or sit upright in a chair. Closing your eyes will help you focus on the different muscle groups, but you do not have to if you don't want to! **For all steps, hold the tense position for a couple of deep breaths, or however long is comfortable for you, then relax. Repeat each step three times.**

2

Draw a deep breath in through your nose and feel your abdomen rise as you fill your body with air. Then slowly exhale from your mouth, pulling your belly-button towards your spine.

3

Start with your feet. Clench your toes with your heel pressing towards the ground. Squeeze tightly for a couple of breaths and then release. It may help to say 'relax' whilst you release the tension. Next, flex your feet with your toes pointing towards your head.

4

Next move to your legs. Stretch your leg out, with your toes pointing towards the sky, feel the back of your leg tightening. Hold this for a couple of deep breaths and then release. Then, point your toes down into the ground with your leg straight for a couple of deep breaths.

5

Now move onto your glutes. Squeeze your buttocks muscles for a couple of deep breaths. Remember, you should only feel tension and not pain.

6

To tense your stomach and chest, pull your belly button in towards your naval as tight as you can. Breathe in deeply, filling up your chest and lungs with air.

7

Next, tense your shoulder blades and back. Push your shoulder blades backwards, as if you are trying to get them to touch. This will push your chest forwards.

8

Now tense the muscles in your shoulders as you bring your shoulders up towards your ears.

9

Be careful when tensing your neck muscles! Face forward, and SLOWLY pull your head back to look up at the ceiling.

10

Squeeze your teeth together to tense your jaw. Open your mouth as wide as you can, as if you are yawning, to relax your mouth and jaw.

11

To tense your eyes and cheeks, squeeze your eyes tight shut.

12

Raise your eyebrows as high as they will go, as if you were surprised, to tense your forehead.

13

To tense your upper arms, bring your forearms up to your shoulder to 'make a muscle'.

14

Finally, to tense your hand and forearm, make fists with both of your hands.

Practice means progress. Only through practice can you become more aware of how your muscles respond to tensions and relaxation. Training your body to respond differently to stress is like any training – practice is the key!

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Calming The Body: Deep Breathing

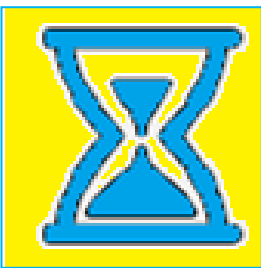
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During periods of anxiety, the body triggers the **Fight or Flight Response**. Breathing is shallow, uncontrolled, and muscles become tense. Deep breathing triggers the **Relaxation Response**, whereby breathing becomes deeper, controlled, slower, and the symptoms of anxiety reduce.

Sit or lie down comfortably. Close your eyes if it makes you feel more comfortable. Place your hand on your stomach, if you breath deeply enough, you should notice your hand rising and falling with each inhalation and exhalation. Imagine a balloon blowing up in your stomach as you breath in, and deflating as you breath out.



1. **Inhale.** Breath in slowly through your nose for 4-8 seconds.



2. **Pause.** Hold the air in your lungs for 4-8 seconds (however long is most comfortable for you).



3. **Exhale.** Breath out slowly through your mouth for 4-8 seconds.

Repeat. Practice for at least 2 minutes. As your technique improves, practice for 5-10 minutes.

Tips

1. **Slow down.** The most common mistake is breathing too quickly. Count each step slowly as you do so.
2. **Counting your breaths** takes your mind off of the source of anxiety. Counting acts as a distraction, whenever you catch your mind wandering, return to counting.

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Worry Tree

1. What is making you worry?

2. Can I do anything about this issue?

NO

YES

Try to distract myself to ease my worry

Make a mind-map or list showing what different things I can do to stop or improve my worry.

3. Can I do anything about it **right now**?

Yes, I can...

No, I cannot do anything about it in this moment.

Do this now!

Make a mind-map or action plan of what I can do in the future to help ease my worry.

Stop worrying and distract yourself.

Do my best to stop worrying by distracting myself, until I can action my plan.

Tip: make your mind-maps and lists colourful, you will be more likely to remember what you have written, and engage with the material more!

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Guided Visual Imagery Relaxation: The Beach

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Lay down, or sit comfortably in a quiet room. Use the deep breathing techniques you learnt earlier in this pack, close your eyes and listen to somebody read you the following script. You can also read this script to yourself. You may find it more relaxing to play an audio track of crashing waves on the beach; this can be sourced on YouTube, Spotify, and most other online music platforms.

You're walking down a long wooden stairway to a big, beautiful beach. It is very quiet and stretches off into the distance as far as you can see. As you look down you notice that the sunlight is reflecting off of the golden sand. You step into the sand, it feels warm so you wriggle your toes. You notice the warmth from the sand between your toes and around your feet. You notice the sounds of the waves crashing and chasing you up the shore, the water sparkles like a diamond as it retreats back. The roaring sound of the waves is so soothing that you can just let go of any worries. The ocean is a beautiful light blue, with patches of darker sapphire in the deep. As you look at these deep blue areas you notice a small sailboat on the horizon. All of these sights help you to let go of any worries and relax even more.

As you continue walking along the beach, you become aware of the fresh salty sea air. You look up take a slow deep breath in, and breath out. This breath makes you feel refreshed and relaxed. As you look up you notice two seagulls, the wind gusts and they appear to dance in graceful circles above you. It makes you wonder how it would feel if you could fly under the warm sun.

You find yourself settling into a deep state of relaxation as you walk further down the beach. You feel the sun wrap its warm arms around you, the warmth relaxes all of your muscles. You notice a beach chair as you walk down the beach, once you reach it you take a seat. Laying back in this comfortable chair makes you reflect on everything you have felt, seen and thought at this beach. You drift into a deeper state of relaxation.

Now, feeling relaxed and at peace, you slowly rise from the beach chair and step into the warm sand to walk home. As you walk, you remember how relaxing this beach has been, and you know that you can come back to this place anytime you like. You start to climb the wooden stairs and gradually bring yourself back into the room. When you are ready, you can open your eyes.

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Relaxing Safe Place Imagery

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All visualisations can be strengthened by engaging all of your senses in creating your 'Safe Place'. If you any negative thoughts enter your positive imagery, discard that image and create another one.



VISION



HEARING



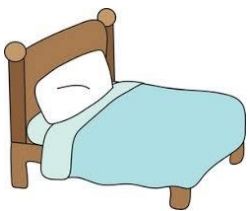
SMELL



TASTE



TOUCH



Get comfortable in a quiet place where you won't be disturbed. Sit, or lie, comfortably. Take a few minutes to practice some deep breathing, become aware of any tension in your body, and release it with each breath.

Imagine a place where you can feel safe and relaxed. Your safe place can be somewhere you have been on holiday, somewhere you have seen a picture of, or a completely new place you create. Avoid using your home as your safe place.

Look around your safe place, pay attention all the colours and shapes around you. Describe what you see aloud.



Now focus on what you can hear. Listen to the sounds far away from you, and those close to you. Perhaps you hear is silence. You may hear the sound of running water, or the crunch of leaves under your feet.

Now focus on any skin sensations. Notice the feel of the ground beneath your feet, or whatever is supporting you in this place. Pay attention to the temperature and direction of the wind, and anything else you can feel.



Take a deep breath in. Place your hand on your stomach, and imagine a balloon inflating in your stomach. Can you notice any smells there? Maybe you can taste the salty sea air as you inhale?



Pay attention to all of these sensations whilst you spend time relaxing in your safe place.

Whilst you're in your safe place, give it a name that you can use to bring that image back at any time.

You can choose to stay for a while, enjoying the calmness and tranquillity. You can leave when you are ready by slowly opening your eyes and bringing yourself back to alertness in the present.

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Self-Soothing

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5, 4, 3, 2, 1 Grounding Technique

This approach explores your five senses to help keep you grounded in the present. This is a calming technique that can help you get through periods of anxiety, or headaches. It can be done independently, making it useful for when you are alone.

Take a deep belly breath to begin. Imagine a balloon in your stomach filling up with air as you breath in.

LOOK: Look around for **5** things that you can see, and say them out loud. For example, you could say, I see the TV, I see the pencil case, I see a vase of flowers.



FEEL: Pay attention to your body and think of **4** things that you can feel, and say them out loud. For example, you could say, I feel my feet warm in my slippers, I feel the grass beneath my feet, or I feel the beanbag I am sitting on.



LISTEN: Listen for **3** sounds. It could be the sound of traffic outside, the sound of typing or the sound of your tummy rumbling. Say the three things out loud.



SMELL: Say **2** things you can smell. If you're allowed to, it's okay to move to another spot and sniff something. If you can't smell anything at the moment or you can't move, then name your 2 favourite smells. You may say, I can smell dinner cooking, or I can smell perfume.



TASTE: Say **1** thing you can taste. It may be the toothpaste from brushing your teeth, or sweetness from fruit. If you can't taste anything, then say your favourite thing to taste.



Take another deep belly breath to end.

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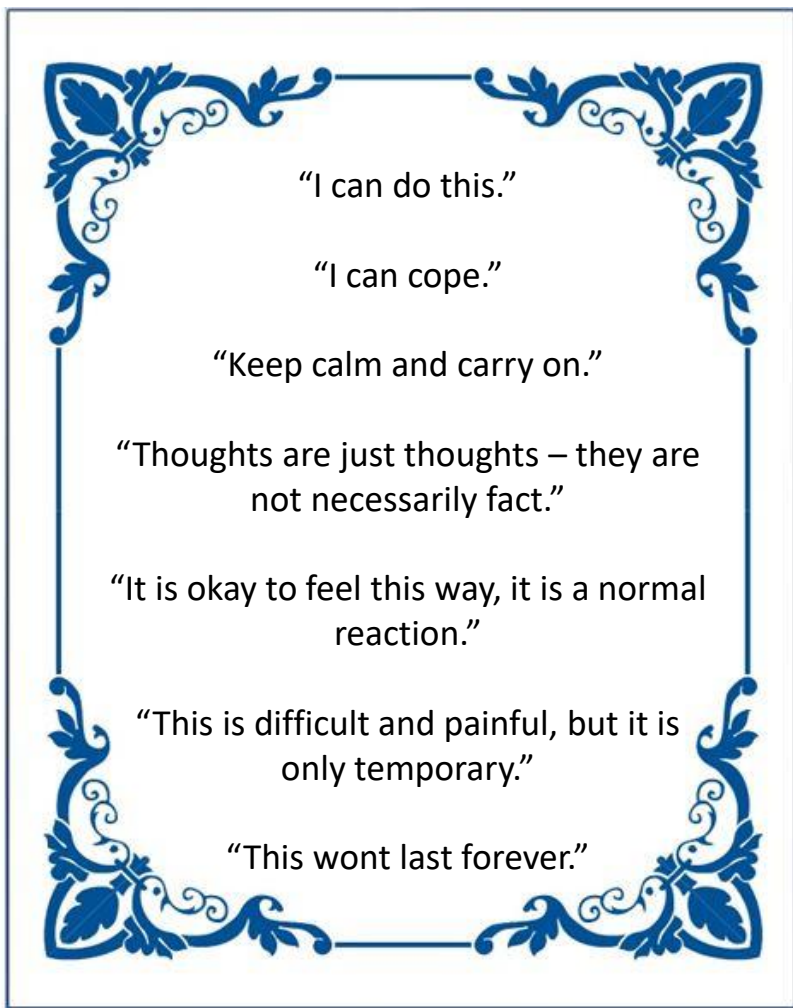
Develop Coping Thoughts/Positive

Self-Talk

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Positive statements encourage us and help us cope in distressing times. We can act as our own coach by saying encouraging things to ourselves, especially when pain is worse. Creating a sentence that you can say to yourself when you are feeling low or struggling to cope with your pain can be very useful. Some children keep a copy of these in their pencil case or wallet so that they are always available.

Some examples include:



Activity:

Fill in the empty spaces with a coping thought you could use in this situation:

Situation	Coping Thought/Positive Statement
Example: I have got really bad stomach pain, I am supposed to have a test at school today.	'The pain will pass, like it has done before. I can still go and do my best, and talk to a teacher to tell them about how I am feeling'.
I was supposed to go out with my friends today, but my tummy pain is bad again.	
I keep missing out on taking part in sports.	

Developed by:

Maria Langridge, Assistant Psychologist, Dr Lara Payne, Clinical Psychologist, and Dr Jenny Cropper, Clinical Psychologist.

Supporting Young Children and Teenagers Experiencing Functional Abdominal Pain

It can be difficult to see a child/teenager in pain. However, as an adult there are ways in which you can help improve their ability to cope with pain:

- 1. Reassurance** – Although we do not know the exact organic cause of functional abdominal pain, your doctor will have completed tests to check that there are no other concerns. It is important to reassure your child that although their symptoms of pain are real (and you understand that they are not making them up), they are not dangerous.
- 2. Record** – When you first notice pain, you may like to keep a pain diary. This may be helpful to learn about triggers and factors that make the pain better/worse. Please ask your doctor for a pain diary if you plan to see them again, and they think that this would be helpful.
- 3. Distract and reduce focus on pain** - It can be difficult to know how to respond to a child/ young adult who is in pain. Often, the natural urge is to pay attention to signs that the young person may be in pain and to reassure them. It is important to avoid making the child/ young person worry or become anxious, as they may focus on their pain more. Although it is challenging as a parent, it is important to minimise attention on the pain, for example, by not asking how pain is. When pain starts, you may find it more beneficial to help the young person focus on something other than the pain, perhaps by engaging them in something they enjoy.
- 4. Encourage normal activities** - It is important to not stop the young person doing the things they enjoy due to a fear of pain. You can reinforce 'well behaviour' (e.g. doing enjoyable activities) and give them confidence to resume their hobbies and interests, despite pain.
- 5. Provide encouragement** – Children and young people will feel more confident in their ability to cope with their pain with your support and confidence. Your role is to provide positive encouragement that they can cope with and manage their pain.
- 6. Support** – Pain may affect your child/teenager's ability to complete homework, coursework, and revision. Offering support with studies may relieve some of the stress, in turn decreasing the chance of reoccurring pains. You may like to provide this information sheet to their school/college so they can provide extra support where necessary.

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Apps:

Mindfulness and Sleep: <https://www.smilingmind.com.au/>

Meditation and Sleep: <https://www.calm.com/>

Meditation: <https://www.headspace.com/kids>

Progressive Muscle Relaxation: <https://www.thinkpacifica.com/>

Other pain resources:

Pain Concern: <https://painconcern.org.uk/>

The Pain Toolkit. This source lists a collection of useful resources for healthcare professionals, families of, and people living in pain:

<https://www.paintoolkit.org/resources/useful-links>

The Retrain Pain Foundation has a good selection of short videos that are helpful in understanding pain: <https://www.retrainpain.org/>

Great Ormond Street NHS Foundation Trust: <https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/conditions-and-treatments/conditions-we-treat/chronic-pain/>

Other useful websites:

Resources for Teachers, Parents, Carers, and Children: <http://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Free Online Counselling: <https://www.kooth.com/>

Stress and Anxiety: <https://www.moodcafe.co.uk/for-children/feeling-worried-frightened-stressed-or-anxious/>

Anxiety: [Anxiety: West Yorkshire Healthier Together \(wyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk\)](http://wyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk)

Depression: [Depression: West Yorkshire Healthier Together \(wyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk\)](http://wyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk)

Mindful Breathing: www.getselfhelp.co.uk/mindfulness.htm

Mindful Activity: www.getselfhelp.co.uk/mindfulness.htm

Relaxation Techniques: www.getselfhelp.co.uk/relax.htm

Relaxing Imagery: www.getselfhelp.co.uk/imagery.htm

Thought Distancing: [Defusion Techniques | Get.gg - Getselfhelp.co.uk](http://www.getselfhelp.co.uk)

Supporting Sleep: www.getselfhelp.co.uk/sleep.htm

Local Support

West Yorkshire



West Yorkshire [Night OWLS](#) is available 8pm to 8am every day for children, young people, parents and carers across West Yorkshire. Call free on [0800 1488 244](#) or text on 07984 392700. Visit the website to use the online chat function www.wynightowls.org.uk



[Kooth](#) is an online counselling and emotional well being platform for children and young people. 10 to 18 year olds can chat one to one with counsellors, access self help articles and connect with peers through live moderated forums.

Leeds



[MindMate](#) was designed with young people to provide information about common mental health issues and where to find support.

Your GP is available to talk to you about any mental health worries, or concerns about your abdominal pain.

Bradford and Craven



[Healthy Minds](#) for young people is there to help you find support, information and advice if you are struggling with how you are feeling and thinking.



[Wellbeing hubs](#) provide support and free specialist advice on a number of areas including mental health. If you are under 16 you need to bring a parent or carer with you.

Kirklees / Calderdale



[Open Minds](#) provides advice, information, support and signposting to local and national emotional health and wellbeing services.

Wakefield



[WF I Can](#) is an online resource for young people in Wakefield where you can find information and advice.

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