

SESSION 5: Get Active to Manage Your Weight



Session Focus

Getting active can help you lose weight and keep that weight off.

This session we will talk about:

- Some benefits of getting active
- Some ways to get active

You will also make a new action plan!

Teo's Story

Teo's doctor urges him to lose 20 pounds and work up to at least 175 minutes of activity each week.

Teo and his wife have five children. The kids all play sports, and he spends a lot of time driving them to events.

Teo also works full time. On weekends, he works a second, part-time job. When he has some free time, he likes to watch basketball on TV, but he rarely plays it. He spends a lot of time sitting.

Teo finds some ways to get active:

- He walks on the sidelines during his children's sports events.
- He also walks with a friend during his lunch break each day.
- He plays basketball with his kids instead of watching it on TV.
- He takes the stairs instead of the elevator.

Teo gets more active over time. These days, he's active for at least 175 minutes a week. His weight is going down. He sleeps better than ever. Plus, he has more energy than he did before he got active.

Ways to Get Active

There are so many great ways to get active. You're sure to find at least one that you enjoy. Here are just a few ideas.

1. After you read six pages of a book, get up and move a little.
2. Dance to your favorite music.
3. Pace the sidelines at your children's or grandchildren's sports events.
4. Play actively with your children or pets for 15 to 30 minutes a day.
5. Replace Sunday drives with Sunday walks.
6. Run or walk fast when you do errands.
7. Start a new active hobby, such as biking or hiking.
8. Take a walk after dinner with your family or by yourself.
9. Track your steps with a pedometer (some people set a goal of 10,000 per day)
10. Walk around whenever you talk on the phone.
11. Walk briskly when you shop.
12. Walk up and down escalators instead of just riding them.
13. Walk your dog each day.
14. When you watch TV, stand up and move during the ads, or do chores.

How do you plan to get active?

Source: American College of Sports Medicine (<https://www.acsm.org/docs/brochures/reducing-sedentary-behaviors-sitting-less-and-moving-more.pdf>) and Heart Foundation (<https://heartfoundation.org.au/images/uploads/publications/PA-Sitting-Less-Adults.pdf>)

Are You Ready to Get Active?

Check off any statement that is true for you. If you check off one or more items, make sure to see your healthcare provider BEFORE you get active.

- I am over 50, and I haven't been active in a long time. I am planning to be very active.
- I get very out of breath when I am even slightly active.
- I have a health problem or other issue not listed here that might need attention if I get active.
- I have a heart problem. My healthcare provider wants to keep eye on my activity.
- I have bone or joint problems that make it hard for me to do things like fast walking.
- I have chest pain that started within the last month.
- I pass out when I get dizzy
- During or right after a workout, I often have pain or pressure my neck, left shoulder, or arm.
- My healthcare provider wants me to take medicine for high blood pressure or a heart problem.

Source: American Heart Association (http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@mwa/documents/downloadable/ucm_432990.pdf)

Be Active, Be Safe

If you get hurt, you may need to take a break from being active. Follow these tips to work out safely.

1. If you haven't already talked about it with your healthcare provider, ask if you are ready to be active. (See "Are You Ready to Get Active?" on page 2.)
2. Dress for the activity. Wear the right shoes and clothes. Use safety gear as needed.
3. Drink water before, during, and after your workout, even if you don't feel thirsty.
4. Listen to your body. Slow down or stop if you feel very tired, sick, or faint, or your joints hurt.
5. Mix it up. Do a variety of activities. That way you won't strain any one part of your body.
6. Start small. If you exercise too hard or too often, you may get hurt. Try to make slow, steady progress over time.
7. Warm up before you work out. Cool down after you work out. Take 5 to 10 minutes for each.
8. Watch out. Take care not to trip or bump into anything.
9. Work with the weather. Work out indoors if it's too hot or too cold. If you get too hot, you may get a headache or a fast heartbeat. You may feel dizzy, sick to your stomach, or faint.
10. Use good form when strength training.
11. Consider working with a trainer for coaching on your form.

Source: National Institute of Aging/National Institutes of Health: Staying Safe During Exercise and Physical Activity (<https://go4life.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/StayingSafe.pdf>)

Harvard Health Publications (<http://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/10-tips-for-exercising-safely>)

It can be challenging to get active. Here are some common challenges and ways to cope with them. Write your own ideas in the column that says "Other Ways to Cope." Check off each idea you try.

CHALLENGE	WAYS TO COPE	OTHER WAYS TO COPE
<p>It's too hot, cold or wet outside</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Work out indoors <input type="checkbox"/> Dress for the weather <input type="checkbox"/> Swim in hot weather 	
<p>I don't have time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> To fit fitness in anytime: <input type="checkbox"/> Break your 175 minutes into smaller chunks <input type="checkbox"/> Park your car farther away from the place you want to go <input type="checkbox"/> Get off the bus or train one stop early and walk the rest of the way <input type="checkbox"/> Take stairs instead of the elevator <input type="checkbox"/> Use a fitness app <input type="checkbox"/> To fit fitness in at home: <input type="checkbox"/> Walk your dog briskly <input type="checkbox"/> Sweep or mop your floor briskly <input type="checkbox"/> Stretch, do sit-ups, or pedal a stationary bike while you watch TV <input type="checkbox"/> Mow your lawn with a push mover. Or rake leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Plant and care for a vegetable or flower garden <input type="checkbox"/> TO fit fitness in at work: <input type="checkbox"/> Take a brisk walk during your coffee or lunch break <input type="checkbox"/> Take part in an exercise program at work <input type="checkbox"/> Join a nearby gym, stop off before or after work, or during your lunch break <input type="checkbox"/> Join the office softball team or walking group <input type="checkbox"/> Use a copy machine on the other side of the building 	

CHALLENGE	WAYS TO COPE	OTHER WAYS TO COPE
I don't have child care	<input type="checkbox"/> Be active with your kids <input type="checkbox"/> Swap child care with a friend <input type="checkbox"/> Ask friends or family to help out <input type="checkbox"/> Use gym child care	
I don't have a car	<input type="checkbox"/> Work out in your own home or neighborhood	
I feel embarrassed	<input type="checkbox"/> Work out in your own home <input type="checkbox"/> Work out with a friend	
My area is not safe	<input type="checkbox"/> Work out in your own home <input type="checkbox"/> Work out at a gym or community center	
It costs too much	<input type="checkbox"/> Do free activities like walking <input type="checkbox"/> Buy workout clothes and equipment on sale <input type="checkbox"/> Look for free fitness classes at your library, community center, or online	
It's boring	<input type="checkbox"/> Dance <input type="checkbox"/> Play with your kids <input type="checkbox"/> Work out with a friend <input type="checkbox"/> Use a fitness app <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to music, watch TV, or talk on the phone while you are active <input type="checkbox"/> Keep trying new things until you find something you like	
It's painful or tiring	<input type="checkbox"/> Ask your healthcare provider what ways to get active are right for you <input type="checkbox"/> Work out safely (see handout) <input type="checkbox"/> Work out at the time of day when you have the most energy <input type="checkbox"/> Walk slowly or swim <input type="checkbox"/> Do yoga or Tai Chi	