

Junior

Virtual Field Trip 3 Stress Management and Coping

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Visualization



School
Mental Health
Ontario

Santé mentale
en milieu scolaire
Ontario





Introduction

Every day, educators and students are exposed to big and small challenges that can contribute to feelings of stress. This year educators and students have risen to the challenge in innovative and creative ways, connecting and building meaningful relationships with students and families. As the impact of the pandemic continues to evolve, providing opportunities for explicit skill development will continue to be an essential part of bolstering positive student mental health. As an educator, it is equally important to prioritize your own well-being.

School Mental Health Ontario, in partnership with *Ophea*, is offering a series of lessons to support the development of stress management and healthy coping skills. The activities in these lessons provide an opportunity for skill development and modelling for both students and educators.

Each lesson will provide:

- A **minds on activity** for both educators and students.
- An **action** – through a video, classes will participate in a '**virtual field trip**' that provides opportunities for students and educators to learn, practice and develop skills to cope with and manage stress.
- A **consolidation** activity for follow up after the virtual field trip.

In this series of six lessons we will:

- Explore the connection between mental and physical health.
- Discuss the benefits of physical activity for stress management.
- Practice stress management coping skills.





Grades 4 – 6

Lesson Plan

This is the third lesson in a series of six lessons to support the development of **stress management** and **healthy coping skills**.

By demonstrating a range of stress management strategies, both students and educators will have more options and ideas for staying mentally well during difficult times. It is important to note that different strategies work for different individuals. Sharing a range of strategies over time will allow students the opportunity to try them out and determine what works for them.

OVERALL EXPECTATIONS:

Strand D, Healthy Living

This chart provides a brief summary of the mental health literacy topic learning, that this lesson will address, for **grades 4 – 6**.

Mental Health Literacy topic	D1 Understanding Health Concepts	D2 Making Healthy Choices	D3 Making Connections for Healthy Living
Grade 4		D2.5 Healthy choices to support Mental Health	D3.3 Stress Management (cognitive, behavioural)
Grade 5		D2.6 How to help others, when to seek help	D3.4 Stigma awareness
Grade 6	D1.4 Seeking help-professional helpers D1.5 Connecting thoughts, emotions and actions		

Strand A, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Skills

The chart below provides an “at-a-glance” summary of SEL skills. SEL has been shown to support student emotional wellness, when offered in the context of a caring, inclusive, equity-minded classroom setting. When student identity is affirmed, and skills are introduced in a developmentally-appropriate and sequenced manner, students can select and adopt social-emotional strategies that build on their strengths. The highlighted skills will be the focus of this lesson series. Learning related to SEL skills are woven throughout the health and physical education curriculum for all grades.

Students will learn skills to:	So they can:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and manage emotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • express their feelings and understand the feelings of others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognize sources of stress and cope with challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop personal resilience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain positive motivation and perseverance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foster a sense of optimism and hope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build relationships and communicate effectively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support healthy relationships and respect diversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop self-awareness and sense of identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a sense of identity and belonging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • think critically and creatively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make informed decisions and solve problems

For a more detailed overview please see [Appendix A of the 2019 HPE Curriculum](#).

LEARNING GOALS:

EDUCATOR	CLASS
<p>As educators, we are learning to build the confidence and competence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the connection between our mental and physical health. • discuss the benefits of physical activity for stress management. • practice and model stress management coping skills. 	<p>As students, we are learning to build confidence and competence to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the connection between mental and physical health. • practice visualization activities as a possible tool to help us cope with stress.



SUCCESS CRITERIA:

Co-create success criteria with your students using the following questions:

- How will we know we are achieving our learning goals?
- What will it look like/sound like?

Re-visit the success criteria you created from [the previous virtual field trips](#). What opportunities are there to extend the learning?

For example:

- I can recognize that stress is a part of life and that it can be managed.
- I can learn ways to respond to stressful challenges.
- I can practice, observe, and apply strategies to help manage my stress.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- ▶ Approaches to all instruction, including Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) skills, must be mediated through respectful conversations about students' lived realities, inequity, bias, discrimination and harassment. Starting with self-reflection about yourself, the classroom and the situations individual students in your class may be coping with is key. It is important to remember that our students face a range of challenges that are relative to their personal, social, and cultural lived experience. They also have existing ways of coping. Be sure to consider sources of stress and examine and address structures that reinforce inequitable conditions that add stress to you, your students and entire communities. Through instruction and modelling, we can help students practise new and bolster existing coping strategies.
- ▶ This virtual field trip lesson is intended to be embedded as part of your school day. Our collective learning takes place on many different traditional Indigenous territories all across Ontario. We are grateful to be able to work and learn locally on these lands. As a school in Ontario we understand morning routines, including a land acknowledgement specific to your location, will have taken place prior to this field trip.
- ▶ The focus on emotions may be difficult for some students. Be prepared to connect students to additional supports if needed. Refer to the [ONE-CALL Desk Reference](#) for more information, and take time to consider your school and board circle of support and service pathways. Know what to do, and who to connect with, if a student seems like they might be struggling with their mental health.
- ▶ An effort has been made to include different options for each of the activities. Please feel free to offer further modifications and accommodations based on the individual student need(s) in your classroom. Also, note that all videos have subtitles. You can choose to have captions by clicking the small 'CC' button at the bottom right of the video screen.



MINDS ON

This virtual field trip focuses on **visualization** activities and how this strategy can help us manage stress. It is important to recognize how our body feels, while noticing and acknowledging our feelings. Guided imagery provides an opportunity to shift our focus away from worries and distractions. It can help us relax when we visualize an image that promotes feelings of calm.

Please complete this Minds On activity before participating in the virtual field trip.

EDUCATOR	CLASS
<p>Reflect on the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can your thoughts change how your body feels? • Can the way your body feels change your thoughts? • Can your emotions change how your body feels? • Can the way your body feels change your emotions? <p>Try this Breathing and Noticing video. Notice how you feel physically and mentally before the activity. Check in after the activity to see if there are any changes.</p>	<p>Reflect and Discuss</p> <p>When we use the strategy of visualization, we don't just picture how something will look, we also think about how it might feel, taste, smell and sound.</p> <p>In Appendix A you will find a list of activity ideas designed to get students talking and thinking about some of their five senses. Choose the activities that fit the needs of your students. You may have other ideas to add to the list based on the materials you have on hand – (e.g., books, musical instruments, etc.). These activities can be done as a whole class, in small groups, or in partners.</p>

ACTION TASK: VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP VIDEO

In the video, an educator and mental health professional will lead two guided visualization activities for you and your students to participate in together. This strategy puts us in touch with our internal thoughts and helps us focus. This in turn can help us recognize sources of stress and help us cope with challenges.

Here are links to the activities that are demonstrated in this video:

- Body scan activity from Ophea combines two activities from the [Brain Blitz resource](#)
- [Visualization video](#) from School Mental Health Ontario

Also, be sure to check out the additional resources in the consolidation section of this lesson for follow-up learning.

Links to view virtual field trip:

[Click here to view on YouTube](#)

[Click here to view on Vimeo](#)



CONSOLIDATION

These activities and resources are designed to provide opportunities for consolidation of learning for both the educator and the students. Also provided is a letter for parents/caregivers that shares information and possible opportunities for follow-up learning.

EDUCATOR	CLASS
<p>Reflect Now that you have participated in three virtual field trips – (breathing, muscle relaxation, visualization), take some time to reflect on which strategies were most effective for you?</p> <p>Are there specific strategies that you would like to practice and incorporate into your daily life?</p> <p>Practice Consider trying this guided body scan activity to practice using visualization as a strategy for yourself.</p> <p>Click here to view</p>	<p>Choose from the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Reflect and Discuss Re-visit the strategies learned in the first two lessons – (breathing and muscle relaxation). Which was your favourite activity and why? Are you noticing which strategies work best for you? How do you know they are working? □ Practice Offer students further opportunities to practise the activities introduced in this field trip, or try one of these complementary activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Mental Health Ontario: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Visualization Activity - Imaginary Walk - Visualization and Body Scan - Breathing and Noticing • Ophea, Brain Blitz: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breathing with Awareness - Breathing Good Energy In - Happy Place Meditation
PARENT/CAREGIVER	
<p>Today our class participated in a virtual field trip to learn more about coping with stress, recognizing that stress is a part of life, and that there are strategies to help us cope. If you would like to continue the learning from today, here are a few prompts to ask your child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you think it is important to understand and know how to manage your emotions? • Which visualization activity from today felt most helpful for you? • Were you able to imagine your favourite place with all your senses? Would you like to tell me about your favourite place? <p>For more activities to try at home, check out this set of activity cards from <i>School Mental Health Ontario</i>: https://smho-smso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/EDMH-ParentActivities-FINAL-EN.pdf.</p> <p>You can also access <i>Ophea's Resources to Support Parents and Caregivers with Health and Physical Education at Home</i> and visit Ophea Open Class for recorded instructional videos and lessons with guiding reflection questions related to social-emotional learning to support learners at home.</p>	





Appendix A

Here are three activities to choose from as a **Minds On** activity before the Virtual Field Trip video. Choose the activities that will best suit the needs of your students.

	<p>I'm Listening!</p> <p>Use the following questions to spark a conversation with students about the sounds that bring them comfort, or make them feel good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you are feeling stressed, worried, or distracted have you noticed what sounds you find comforting? • Is there a certain type of music, or a particular song that you find calming? Do you have certain songs that also help pump you up? • Are you soothed by sounds found in nature like wind, water, or birds? <p><i>Optional extension activity:</i> There are websites that offer a variety of sound samples, as well as websites that provide tools to make music. Students could explore one of these sites and share a sound that they like, or create a piece of music that makes them feel good.</p> <p>An example of these websites would be: https://noises.online/, and https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Song-Maker</p>
	<p>Guess the Object</p> <p>Place an object in a bag or box so that students can't see it. Invite a student to reach in and feel the object and describe only what they can feel. For example – bumpy, round, smooth, rough. Once the student has given 3 descriptive clues, accept guesses from the class, and then a guess from the student providing the description. Remove the item from the bag and then repeat. Use a variety of items – a small stuffed animal, a toy car, or even an ice cube! To increase the challenge try putting two related items in at the same time and have the leader describe them both. For example – a fork and knife, a pen and pencil.</p>



Charades – Places that People Love

This classic game of Charades will get students moving and thinking. The theme of 'places that people love' complements one of the activities offered in the virtual field trip.

Instructions: Using only pantomime students will “act out” the name of a place without speaking, while the other members of their team try to guess what the place is. The objective is for the class/team to guess the phrase as quickly as possible.

This game could also be done as Pictionary. Students would draw the clues, instead of acting them out.

Clues for charades (you can print this page off and then cut this chart into strips).

The beach	A treehouse
A beanbag chair	Beside a fireplace
A forest	Couch

Have students come up with their own.

