



# Cooking and enjoying food with others helps maintain our mental health

**Help your child build confidence and self-esteem:**

- Cook together
- Try new foods
- Grow your own veggies and fruit
- Eating with others
- Share food traditions

Have fun with your food, the more hands-on the better!

*Adapted with permission from  
Middlesex-London Health Unit*



## Mental health is health too!

We often focus on things to improve our physical health, but our mental health is important too.

**Here are some tips to promote mental health for you and your child:**

- Connect with friends, family and community often
- Eat regular meals together
- Find ways to move your body that you enjoy
- Get a full nights sleep
- 9-12 hours for youth
- 7-9 hours for adults

We are all different, find what works for you!



# You can help your child cope with life's challenges!

**Try asking these questions if your child is struggling with a problem:**

- What can you do right now to help fix the problem?
- What caused this problem?
- What is something good that came from this situation?

**Here are some ideas to help your child deal with stress:**

- Practice deep breathing
- Go for a walk or stretch together
- Find calm through music, reading or art

Helping your child to replace negative thoughts with positive ones can better prepare them to face difficult situations.

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