

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING

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Children's Services

Supporting the anxiety

Supporting approach

'The 5 Ways to Wellbeing'

This is a universal approach which identifies 5 evidence-based actions that we can all take to improve our mental wellbeing;

- CONNECT
- BE ACTIVE
- TAKE NOTICE
- KEEP LEARNING
- GIVE

The approach originated from a large scale review of the current knowledge on mental health and wellbeing carried out between July 2006 and October 2008 by the UK government's future think-tank Foresight. Foresight commissioned New Economics Foundation (NEF) to look at the evidence and identify the daily activities that support people to live their lives in a happier way. The key findings included:

- Small improvements in wellbeing can increase our ability to lead a more fulfilling life.
- Each action in the Five Ways to Wellbeing can make a positive difference to your life.
- People are probably doing some of these actions already without being aware of it.
- To get the most from the Five Ways to Wellbeing, people are encouraged to try to combine all of them on a daily basis.

https://neweconomics.org/2008/10/five-ways-to-wellbeing

Making it successful

The 5 Ways to Wellbeing Framework is a very useful way of structuring your time making sure you are striking a balance between all 5 actions.

- Create a rich description of the activity under each action. Use curious questioning to illicit what the child/young person is already doing
- Under each action, generate ideas of what they could try now or in the future.
- Encourage the person to think of activities that can incorporate many of the elements at the same time.

These two actions may be enough or it may be more effective to follow the other steps below:

- Use 1-10 scaling to generate a baseline score in each area. If these scores are plotted on a circle diagram (like the wellbeing wheel) then it is easy to see how balanced the activities are between headings. The aim is to have a well-rounded circle even if the scores are initially low.
- Now the person can challenge themselves to increase their scaled scores across the different actions over the coming weeks.

Bear in mind the type of activities, the scale scores, the challenges reflect a personal journey and there are no correct/incorrect responses. Everyone needs to think about their own interests, abilities, values etc.

Resources

From the original report, NEF produced 5 postcards outlining each of the 5 actions which can be downloaded from the NEF website. https://neweconomics.org/2008/10/five-ways-to-wellbeing-the-postcards

The Children's Society UK have developed a set of postcards for parents with ideas to support their children's wellbeing.

https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/research/well-being/ways-well-being

The approach is endorsed by the UK government, NHS, and a range of mental health charities. All of these organisations have information on their websites about the approach and access to downloadable resources.

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress -anxiety-depression/improve-mentalwellbeing/

https://www.mind.org.uk/workplace/ mental-health-at-work/taking-care-ofyourself/five-ways-to-wellbeing/