

# Top 10 tips to support your child through their exams

## What is Prepare to Perform?



## Staying calm, feeling good, being effective



- ✓ A toolkit to help your child control different aspects of their life to help them perform better when it comes to exam time
- ✓ It will allow them to focus, set themselves a plan and work towards being prepared in the best possible way

## How can you help your child and prepare them to perform?



- 1. Being a role model
- 2. Help them set goals
- 3. Keep them active
- 4. Healthy eating
- 5. Time out
- 6. Sleep patterns
- 7. Unplugging
- 8. Staying cool & calm
- 9. Belief
- 10.Be supportive

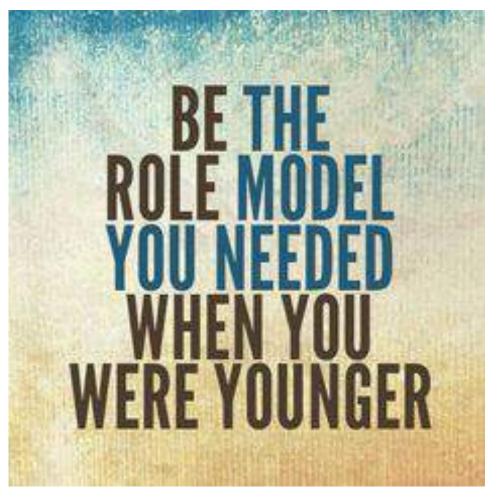
Each day you can support your child to make choices which can impact how they perform during the exam period

## 1. Being a role model

## Set a good example by modelling the behaviour you want your child to adopt...

- Planning for the week
- Eating healthily and well
- Keeping hydrated
- Leading an active life
- Staying calm
- Being organised
- Good sleep habits





## 2. Goal Setting

- Encourage them to keep their goals planner visible – e.g. printed and displayed on their bedroom wall
- Help focus them and talk to them about their goals regularly
- Give positive reinforcement
- Connect with them about 'why' and 'what' they want to achieve





## 3. Keeping Active

- Encourage them to keep active on a daily basis
- Carry out exercise in manageable chunks e.g. 3 x 20 min sessions throughout the day
- Plan to do active things together on a weekend
- Go out for a walk together and get some fresh air
- Help them plan out their weekly exercise schedule in advance
- After exercise your brain functions well, so encourage a revision session afterwards



## 4. Healthy Eating

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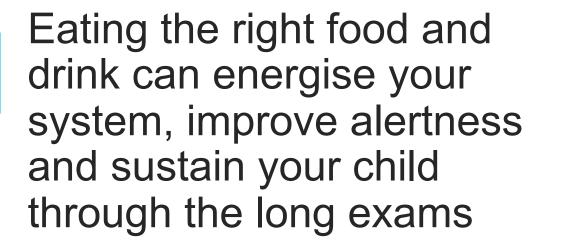
- Plan your family meals for the week breakfast, snacks, lunches and evening meals
- Carry out a weekly food shop and make sure you write a list
- Avoid high sugary and fatty foods or drinks
- Aim to eat clean, fresh and healthy foods
- Have a couple or 'treat' meals / or meals out per week
- Use the Mark Lloyd recipes and meal planner as guidance
- Encourage them to eat breakfast everyday
- Hydration is key to brain functioning so make sure your child carries a bottle of water with them



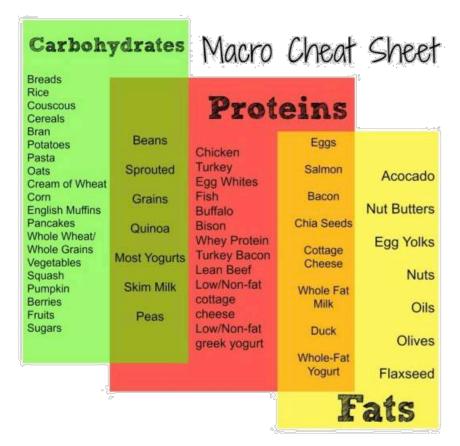
## 4. Healthy Eating

#### **A BALANCING ACT**

Keep your sugar levels under control.







#### **MIGHTY MAGNESIUM**

Magnesium is involved in over 1000 enzymatic reactions in the body. It's vitally important in providing our cells with energy

Green vegetables
Nuts
Pulses
Fish
Bananas

## UP THE B'S & OMEGA 3'S

B vitamins are directly involved in creating energy at a cellular level & will give you an energy boost
Green vegetables
Asparagus / Spinach
Broccoli
Yoghurt
Chicken / Salmon
Whole Grains / Brown rice
Almonds / Pecans
Eggs

### 5. Time Out

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Encourage them to build in opportunities to take some time out every week, away from study. For example:

- Going out for food
- Seeing friends
- Having a bath
- Listening to music
- Reading a book
- Doing a hobby
- Going shopping
- Going to the cinema



IS AS IMPORTANT AS PUTTING TIME IN

## 6.Sleep Patterns

- Young people need between 8 9 hours sleep per night
- Help your child create a relaxing evening routine
- Make sure they don't eat too late at night
- Avoid giving them caffeine or sugary drinks late at night
- Make sure they don't work or revise too late before going to bed
- Encourage them to switch off from social media / technology at least an hour before bedtime





## 7. Unplugging

- ✓ Encourage them to unplug from technology everyday
- ✓ Help them switch off from technology at least 30 mins- 1 hr before going to sleep
- ✓ Support your child to appreciate the world around them rather than being governed by their phone
- ✓ Make sure they put their phone away, &
  on silent, while they are concentrating on
  tasks / revision / homework
- ✓ Help them learn to have the control to not be obsessed with their phone
- ✓ Choose some time each day/week to switch off and unplug from technology with them





## 8. Staying Cool & Calm

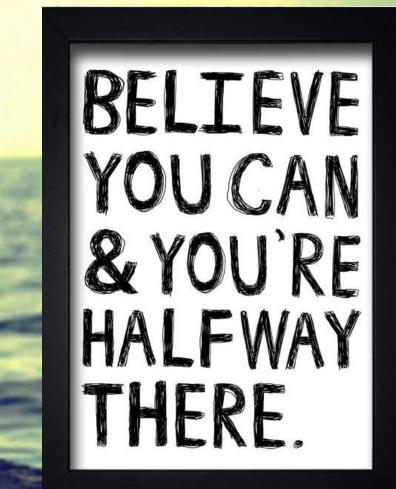
- Set a good example by staying calm yourself
- Create a relaxing environment for your child
- Help them plan out coping strategies to deal with their stress
- Give them positive distractions away from studying
- Help them understand their stress & to focus on controlling the controllables
- Promote a balance of their academic studies & other activities during the week



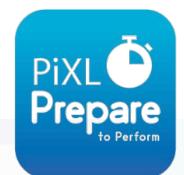
### 9. Belief

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- Give them positive reinforcement
- Boost their confidence daily
- Celebrate any successes and reward them e.g. if they have achieved their mini-goals
- Try not to set your expectations too high
- Show them how proud of them you are
- Highlight things to make them feel good
- Give them the belief in themselves to help them achieve



## 10. Be Supportive





- Be a good listener
- Be approachable
- Encourage them to take breaks in between revision
- Show some understanding of what they are going through
- Help them deal with their emotions & feelings
- Offer caring advice
- Just be there for them!