I Gotta Feeling
Top Tips For Feeling Good
This booklet lists some things that young people have found helped them feel better when they felt sad, stressed or angry and some things that help you feel good generally.

You might like to fill this in with someone close to you like your mum, dad or the person who looks after you at home. Or you might like to do it yourself.

If you don’t want to fill it in at all, that’s fine too!
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If you feel upset or stressed, it might be helpful to talk to someone you know and trust.

**Talk to someone**

- parents
- grandparents
- brothers
- sisters
- friends
- teachers
- other family members e.g. cousins, aunt

Make a list of the people you think you could talk to...
Telling someone close to you how you feel and what is going on for you can really help.

- If you cannot talk to anyone close to you, you could call Childline on 0800 1111.
- They will not tell anyone you have called.
- The call will be free from most house phones and most mobiles.
- The call will not be listed on the telephone numbers dialled from your phone line.
- If for some reason you can’t get through then try again or you can call Samaritans 08457 90 90 90.
Make a list of things you enjoy

- hanging out with friends
- going out e.g. shopping
- doing something by yourself
- having a bubble bath
- watching a film or your favourite TV programme
- playing on the computer
- playing a sport e.g. basketball, football
- taking a nap
- talking to a good friend
Things I enjoy…

Try to do something you enjoy every day.
Find ways to chill out and relax

Try relaxing with exercise:

✔ Arrange to go swimming
✔ Go to your local park with a friend
✔ Play a game e.g. football or frisbee

If you feel a bit stressed, try slow deep breathing:

• slowly take a deep breath
• hold it for 5 seconds
• very slowly let it out
• do this two or three times (not too much)

Relax by:
✔ playing a computer game
✔ reading a book
✔ watching TV
✔ listening to music
✔ going for a walk
✔ having a bubble bath
✔ lying in bed
✔ playing with friends
Try relaxing your body (a bit like if you were on a beach):

1. Sit or lie somewhere quiet and comfortable
2. Stretch out your arms and make a fist, then relax
3. Push your legs out, wiggle your toes, then relax
4. Shut your eyes tight and pull a scrunched-up face, and then relax

Think of places that you like to visit or a place you feel comfortable (e.g. your room)

- Let your imagination take you away to a far-off place
- Imagine the sun on your face, the wind in your hair etc.
We can all feel angry at different times for different reasons. Feeling angry can actually be a good thing. It’s our bodies’ natural way to protect us from danger. However, the trick is to know how to deal with our anger.

When we feel angry changes happen in our bodies

Try and spot early signs of getting angry:
✓ muscles tensing up
✓ heart beating faster
✓ sweating
✓ faster breathing
✓ red face
✓ butterflies in the stomach
Sometimes when people are angry they react before having the chance to think things through. Here is one way of trying to stop yourself from acting without thinking. Imagine a set of traffic lights.

**RED: STOP!!!**
When you are in a situation and feel the anger rising, imagine the red light telling you to STOP!

**AMBER: Cool off and think.**
This is where you take time to cool off and think. You might want to try deep breathing to calm yourself down or doing something active or moving away from the situation. This will give you time to think of how to act next.

**GREEN: Ready to go**
Now you have taken the time to calm down, you are ready to act.

Some ideas of what to do:
- talk to someone
- ignore it because it’s not worth it
- walk away

Things I could do when I am angry:
Celebrate the good things in life!

Sometimes it is hard to remember all the good things that happen to us.
Things that may have gone well:
✓ Got to school on time
✓ Finished all your homework
✓ Made a friend laugh
✓ Helped a family member
✓ Didn’t get a detention today
✓ Didn’t get in trouble today

Can you think of three things you are pleased about that have happened today?

Each night, for a week, try and list 3 things that you enjoyed.

Mon
Tue
Wed
Thur
Fri
Sat
Sun
Often we spend so much time worrying about what we cannot do that we forget to celebrate our achievements. So here’s to celebrating the best in you!

Can you think of a time when you were at your best? Below, write about a time when you thought you were on top form.

Make sure you revisit this page and remember the strengths you have.

Personal strengths I am proud of:
A little help from my friends

Helping others often makes us feel better about ourselves.
If your friends feel sad, worried or angry:
✓ Be patient
✓ Allow them time to talk
✓ Try and help them look for help
Once in a while we are lucky enough to have somebody lend a helping hand. However, sometimes we forget to thank them for being so kind and helpful.

Can you think of somebody who has been kind and helpful but hasn't been properly thanked? How do you think they would feel to get a proper 'thank you' for their act of kindness?

On the 'Thank you' card below, write a 'thank you' note to that kind, helpful person you know.

You may want to send a real copy to this person.
Getting more help

Here are some websites that may help:

Childline
www.childline.org

NSPCC
www.nspcc.org.uk

Youngminds
www.youngminds.org.uk

Who Cares?
www.thewhocarestrust.org

Get Connected
www.getconnected.org.uk

This booklet is written by adults whose job it is to find out what helps children when they feel upset or stressed.

For more information visit
www.help4pupils.org

With thanks to: Alex, Robin, Maya and their friends, who helped write this book.