



FrontLine Employee

Wellness, Productivity, and You!

Helping Teens Say No to Vaping

If you are a parent concerned about helping your teens avoid vaping, you need to clearly communicate your disapproval. Parents who educate their children and set boundaries—even if teens seem not to listen—have the most influence on preventing vaping, drug use, or other risky behaviors. It's not just about giving information; parents have a strong say in shaping choices. Clear communication, staying informed, understanding what your teen is doing, and setting consistent expectations form the most effective strategy. For example: "I love you and need you to be healthy. Vaping may damage lungs and may hook you on nicotine. My expectation is clear—I don't want you using e-cigarettes." Research shows that parents' consistent disapproval significantly reduces teen vaping and helps teens make safer choices.



Unplug and Connect with What Matters

Technology devices can get in the way of quality family time. Could a "device-free zone" (or two) be good for your family? The idea is to have loved ones, especially children, learn to value face-to-face interactions, which are crucial for emotional well-being. If you want to try implementing the concept, here are tips: start the tradition early to maximize the impact on young children and its value for their developmental psychology as it grows over time. Also, get agreement and commitment from household members to adhere to the rules set for your device-free zone(s).



Productivity Tip: Overcome Workplace Distractions with the Two-Minute Rule



If you must work amid environmental noise and other distractions, try the "two-minute rule" to maintain productivity and reduce frustration. Credited to David Allen in "Getting Things Done," the rule suggests never delaying a task that takes less than two minutes. In noisy or distracting workplaces, it can be adapted to help focus when attention is limited. With determination, two minutes of concentrated effort are achievable. Start by deciding which task must be done now, then break it into two-minute segments. Fully focus on each segment, completing it before taking a brief mental break to reset. This approach creates continual small wins, builds momentum, and helps you tolerate interruptions. Over time, these small bursts of focused work improve productivity, reduce stress, and make a disruptive environment more manageable.

The Power of Accountability Partners in Exercise



If you struggle to stay motivated with a regular exercise program, teaming with an accountability partner or buddy can double your chances of success. Exercising alongside someone reinforces commitment naturally, while relying on each other for scheduling and progress tracking strengthens accountability. The combination of social connection and the obligation to keep promises increases the likelihood of reaching fitness goals. This shared responsibility helps you stay motivated, even on days when you'd rather skip a workout. For best results, choose a friend or colleague rather than a virtual partner. Online connections can help, but they often lack real-time interaction and the relationship-building dynamics that make accountability and long-term adherence to your exercise program more effective.

A Better Morning Routine May Change Your Day

Take charge of your mornings in order to reduce stress, avoid rushing and starting the day feeling behind. For starters, plan to wake up at a consistent time. At night, lay out your clothes and write a short to-do list for tomorrow. Add one small chore you might otherwise ignore that takes 10 minutes or less to complete. Why? Completing a simple chore—decluttering or tidying up a kitchen—helps you build a habit loop. The visual completion of a chore prompts a small, gratifying dopamine boost. This is how your brain responds to small wins. The feeling of accomplishing something early in the morning helps you anticipate other successes in your day. This feeling that you're in control of the direction of your day is likely to stay with you. Your mental clarity will carry into the office. Instead of being on edge, reactive, and easily triggered, you will be more solution-focused and harmonious with coworkers and customers because you will be calmer and more patient. Beginning your day as described is about "intention," and this primes your brain for focus and productivity. Try it for a week. See if you notice the positive domino effects that a morning routine and small chore bring.



Embrace Digital Wellness

Digital wellness

involves intentionally setting limits on when, where, and how technology is used to protect your mental, emotional, and physical well-being. "Digital mental health" is a rapidly growing field of study. It examines how virtual reality, smartphones, apps, social media, artificial intelligence, and 3D interaction affect wellness. Can placing personal boundaries on digital engagement help protect your well-being? Could it improve relationships and productivity, reduce stress, lessen anxiety, and improve sleep? Research has shown that technology boundaries reduce screen fatigue, improve focus, increase productivity, and boost real-world relationships. They provide for rest and more time for hobbies and mindful engagement. Start with a simple digital boundary to observe its positive effects. For example, take a walk in nature without a smartphone. Create a "technology-free zone" in your home. See if you feel calmer, more focused, and more connected to the world around you in healthier ways.



Beginning the Journey to End Domestic Violence

Domestic abuse is a devastating violation of trust and safety that can make a person feel trapped in their own home. Victims may feel isolated from the world and silenced by fear. If you're a victim of domestic violence—even if you are not ready to act—reach out for confidential support. A single call, experience shows, can be life-changing because very specific guidance that speaks to your unique situation may be the missing piece of help, the idea, or the step that allows you to move forward now. The New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline at (800) 942-6906 or Text at (844) 997-2121 is always available. Making yourself heard and having support are your first steps. You may hesitate or fear the abuser could somehow find out and retaliate. You might feel embarrassed or believe you should handle the situation on your own. You might even question whether what you are experiencing is really abuse, or you might hope that things will improve soon. These are all common roadblocks to making your first call for support. Victims often remain silent, but to delay getting help can increase the risk of further harm or make it harder to break free from the cycle of abuse.



The Silent Struggle of High-Functioning Depression

Some individuals with

major depressive disorder may not seek help because they don't recognize their symptoms and seem to function well socially and at work. They may appear happy and cheerful outwardly yet struggle internally with persistent sadness, low self-worth, anxiety, inadequacy, and despair. Does this sound like you? People with atypical or "high functioning" depression might avoid seeking support or fail to recognize their condition, often attributing symptoms to other personal challenges rather than a diagnosable disorder. Discuss your experiences with your EAP coordinator. Don't let this condition cloud your thinking or keep you from getting the help you need. Don't struggle in silence. EAP offers free, confidential assessment and referral services to you and your family members.

