# **Self-Care Assessment**

The following worksheet for assessing self-care is not exhaustive, merely suggestive. Feel free to add areas of self-care that are relevant for you and rate yourself on how often and how well you are taking care of yourself these days. When you are finished, look for patterns in your responses. Are you more active in some areas of self-care? Do you tend to ignore others? Are there items on the list that hadn't even occurred to you? Listen to your internal responses and dialogue about self-care, and take note of anything you would like to prioritize moving forward.

Rate the following areas according to how well you think you are doing		
<ul> <li>3 = I do this well (e.g., frequently)</li> <li>2 = I do this OK (e.g., occasionally)</li> <li>1 = I barely or rarely do this</li> </ul>	<b>0</b> = I never do this <b>?</b> = This never occurred to me	
Physical Self-Care		
Eat regularly (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) Get regular medical care for prevention Get medical care when needed Take time off when sick Wear clothes I like Do some fun physical activity Think positive thoughts about my body  Psychological Self-Care	Exercise Eat healthily Get massages Take vacations Get enough sleep Do some fun artistic activity (Other)	
Take day trips or mini-vacations Have my own personal psychotherapy Make time away from technology/internet Read something unrelated to work Notice my thoughts, beliefs, attitudes, feelings Engage my intelligence in a new way or area Do something at which I am not expert  Emotional Self-Care	<ul> <li>Make time for self-reflection</li> <li>Write in a journal</li> <li>Attend to minimizing life stress</li> <li>Be curious</li> <li>Say no to extra responsibilities</li> <li>Be okay leaving work at work</li> <li>(Other)</li> </ul>	
Spend time with people whose company I enjoy Stay in contact with important people in my life Re-read favorite books, re-view favorite movies Identify and seek out comforting activities/places Express my outrage in social action or discussion	Love myself Allow myself to cry Give myself affirmation/praise Find things that make me laugh (Other)	

<u>Spiritual Self-Care</u>	
<ul> <li>Make time for reflection</li> <li>Find a spiritual connection or community</li> <li>Be aware of non-material aspects of life</li> <li>Try at times not to be in charge or the expert</li> <li>Identify what is meaningful to me</li> <li>Seek out reenergizing or nourishing experiences</li> <li>Contribute to causes in which I believe</li> <li>Read or listen to something inspirational</li> </ul>	Spend time in nature Be open to inspiration Cherish my optimism and hope Be open to knowing Meditate Find time for prayer or praise Have experiences of awe (Other)
Relationship Self-Care	
Schedule regular dates with my partner Call, check on, or see my relatives Share a fear, hope, or secret with someone I trust Stay in contact with faraway friends Make time for personal correspondence Allow others to do things for me	Make time to be with friends Ask for help when I need it Communicate with my family Enlarge my social circle Spend time with animals (Other)
Workplace or Professional Self-Care	
Take time to chat with coworkers  Identify projects/tasks that are exciting  Balance my load so that nothing is "way too much"  Arrange work space to be comfortable  Get regular supervision or consultation  Negotiate/advocate for my needs	<ul> <li>Make quiet time to work</li> <li>Take a break during the day</li> <li>Set limits with my boss/peers</li> <li>Have a peer support group</li> <li>Identify rewarding tasks</li> <li>(Other)</li> </ul>
Overall Balance	
Strive for balance within my work-life and work day Strive for balance among my family, friends, and rela Strive for balance between play and rest Strive for balance between work/service and person Strive for balance in looking forward and acknowledge  Areas of Self-Care that are Relevant to You	al time
(Other)	

Adapted from Saakvitne, Pearlman, & Staff of TSI/CAAP (1996). *Transforming the Pain: A Workbook on Vicarious Traumatization*. Norton. Adapted by Lisa D. Butler, PhD.

\_\_\_\_ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_



Slumber

Mental



**Emotional** 



Slumber

**Spiritual** 



Slumber

Relationship

Focus on your mental self-care practice this week. Being a parent is psychologically demanding and requires giving so much attention to your little one. Take time to increase your awareness and tend to your mental needs.

## Practice Ideas

Make time for self-reflection

See a counselor

Write in a journal Read books

Try a new activity or sport Practice receiving from others- you don't always have to take care of everyone else

Say no to extra responsibilities

Focus on your emotional self-care practice this week. Being a parent requires you to be a role model of emotional regulation for children on a daily basis. This is a very important and often difficult job. Take time to take care of your emotional needs.

## Practice Ideas

Spend time with others whose company you enjoy

Stay in contact with important people in your life

Do something out of your normal routine

Identify comforting activities, objects, people, relationships, and places and seek them out

Say nice things to yourself, because you are AWESOME!

Allow yourself to cry

Find things that make you laugh

Focus on your spiritual self-care practice this week. Being a parent can be inspiring and disheartening at the same time. Take time to connect to whatever gives your life meaning and inspiration and reflect on your spiritual needs.

#### Practice Ideas

Make time for reflection-journal

Spend time with nature

Find a spiritual connection or community

Be open to inspiration

Be aware of nonmaterial aspects of life

Try at times not to be in charge or the expert

Pray/meditate

Read inspirational books

Volunteer to help others

Focus on your relationship self-care practice this week. Maintaining healthy, supportive relationships is vital in parenting. Take time to practice taking care of yourself and being mindful of your own needs within your close relationships.

#### Practice Ideas

Tell someone you care about something you appreciate about them

Be clear about your schedule and needs

Take time to do activities with the people you care about that are fun and fulfilling for both of you

Prioritize close and positive relationships in your life

Leave work on time and don't bring work home



Focus on your physical self-care practice this week. Being a parent requires a lot of energy and is at times stressful. Take time to check in with your body and make sure you are tending to your physical needs.

# Practice Ideas

Eat regularly - Eat breakfast!

Eat healthy

Exercise

Get medical care, make that appointment you have been putting off

Take time off when you are sick

SLEEP, you know how much you need, so get it

Take a mini vacation

Get moving - Dance, swim, walk, run, play sports, sing, walk



Stress Relief Meditation

