

Self-Care Assessment

Adapted from Saakvitne, Pearlman, & Staff of TSI/CAAP (1996). *Transforming the pain: A workbook on vicarious traumatization*. Norton.

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 but ignore others? Are there items on the list that make you think, "I would never do that"? Listen to your inner responses, your internal dialogue about self-care and making yourself a priority. Take particular note of anything you would like to include more of in your life.

Rate the following areas according to how well you think you are doing:

- 3 = I do this well (e.g., frequently)
- 2 = I do this OK (e.g., occasionally)
- 1 = I barely or rarely do this
- 0 = I never do this
- ? = This never occurred to me

Physical Self-Care

- ___ Eat regularly (e.g. breakfast, lunch, and dinner)
- ___ Eat healthily
- ___ Exercise
- ___ Get regular medical care for prevention
- ___ Get medical care when needed
- ___ Take time off when sick
- ___ Get massages
- ___ Dance, swim, walk, run, play sports, sing, or do some other fun physical activity
- ___ Take time to be sexual - with myself, with a partner
- ___ Get enough sleep
- ___ Wear clothes I like
- ___ Take vacations
- ___ Other:

Mental Self-Care

- ___ Take day trips or mini-vacations
- ___ Make time away from telephones, email, and the Internet
- ___ Make time for self-reflection
- ___ Notice my inner experience - listen to my thoughts, beliefs, attitudes, feelings
- ___ Have my own personal psychotherapy
- ___ Write in a journal
- ___ Read literature that is unrelated to work
- ___ Do something at which I am not expert or in charge
- ___ Attend to minimizing stress in my life
- ___ Engage my intelligence in a new area, e.g., go to an art show, sports event, theatre
- ___ Be curious

Workplace or Professional Self-Care

- _____ Take a break during the workday (e.g., lunch)
- _____ Take time to chat with co-workers
- _____ Make quiet time to complete tasks
- _____ Identify projects or tasks that are exciting and rewarding
- _____ Set limits with clients and colleagues
- _____ Balance my caseload so that no one day or part of a day is "too much"
- _____ Arrange work space so it is comfortable and comforting
- _____ Get regular supervision or consultation
- _____ Negotiate for my needs (benefits, pay raise)
- _____ Have a peer support group
- _____ (If relevant) Develop a non-trauma area of professional interest

Overall Balance

- _____ Strive for balance within my work-life and work day
- _____ Strive for balance among work, family, relationships, play, and rest

Other Areas of Self-Care that are Relevant to You

- _____
- _____
- _____

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http://www.ballarat.edu.au/aasp/student/sds/self_care_assess.shtml and adapted by Lisa D. Butler, Ph.D.)