

YOUTH

HEALTH BULLETIN



MAY 2025

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC CATCH SOME Z'S



Sleep is important because it helps our bodies and brains rest, recharge, and heal. Getting enough sleep also helps us feel happy and focused when awake.

How much sleep should you get?

How much sleep you need depends on your age. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine has made the following recommendations for children and teens:

- **Aged 6 to 12 years:** 9-12 hours
- **Aged 13 to 18 years:** 8-10 hours

That may seem like a lot, but your body does important work while sleeping! When we sleep, our

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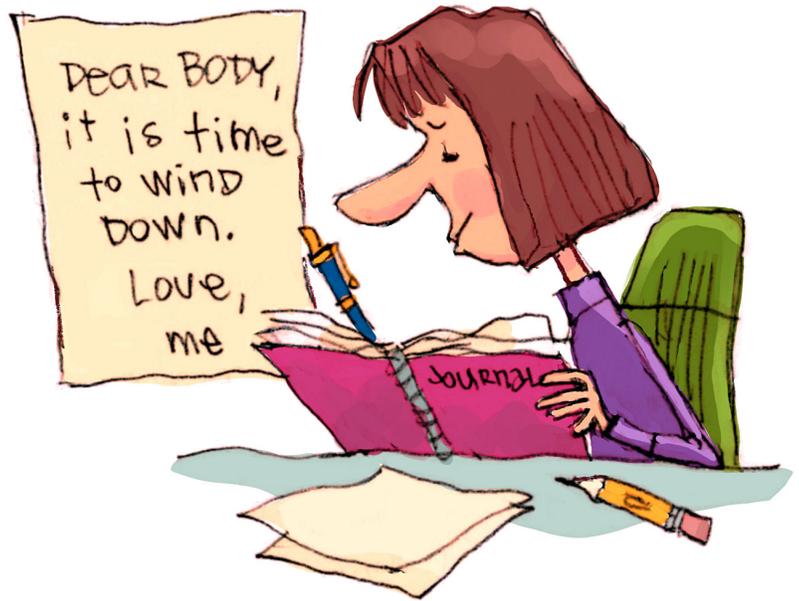
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body has the time and energy to grow, fix hurt muscles, tissues, and bones, and strengthen our immune system to fight sicknesses. Our brain also processes everything we learn during the day, which helps us remember things better and solve problems more easily.

Many kids and teens report not getting enough sleep, though. Some have trouble going to sleep or staying asleep, while others do not feel they have enough time to rest or would rather be doing other things. But getting enough sleep can cause problems! People who do not get enough sleep regularly are more likely to get sick, get injured from accidents, and not do as well at school because they have problems paying attention and remembering new things.

There are ways you can help yourself have an easier time going to sleep and getting good rest so that you wake up feeling rested:

- **Make a sleep schedule:** Talk with your parents about the right bedtime for you based on how much sleep you need and when you need to wake up. Go to bed at the same time each day.
- **Limit screen time before bed:** The blue light from phones, TVs, and computers can make going to sleep harder. Try to avoid screens for 30 minutes to an hour before sleep.
- **Make your sleep space comfortable:**
 - Keep your room cool (around 60 to 67 degrees F).



- Reduce noise by using earplugs or a white noise machine.
- Keep your room as dark as possible. You could use curtains or an eye mask.

- **Limit caffeine:** Having caffeine too close to bedtime can keep your body from making melatonin, the sleep hormone. This can make it harder to fall asleep.
- **Relax before bed:** Choose relaxing activities like reading, taking a warm bath or shower, or journaling to tell your body it's time to wind down.
- **Exercise regularly:** Being active during the day can help you sleep better at night and feel more rested. Get your activity before dinnertime you don't have a post-workout energy surge late at night.

If you are having trouble sleeping or feel tired or sleepy often during the day, talk to your parents and doctor about ways to help.

REFERENCE:

https://archive.cdc.gov/www_cdc_gov/healthyschools/features/students-sleep.htm

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