### **Sleep for Energy and Health**



# SLEP your way to happiness

12 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR SLEEP AND MAKE YOUR LIFE HAPPIER

Be it for
5 minutes
or
8 hours,
let sleep
refresh you.

"I could finally sleep. And this was the real gift, because when you cannot sleep, you cannot get yourself out of the ditch - there's not a chance."

Elizabeth Gilbert. Eat Pray Love

Your performance depends on it.

Poor sleep is an epidemic in the western world. We work

long hours, spend too much time with technology; worry about making enough money and supporting the family

and much more. All of this affects one of the most important ingredients to an ideal personal and work life - SLEEP.

What you want to look forward to every day is:

Energy Simplicity Balance

### Poor sleep is a serious hindrance to personal and work performance

### The Three Key Performance Elements

#### WELLNESS

Take care of yourself! When you are fit, healthy and balanced your personal and work life will be great.

When wellness is evident in people there is a positive energy that reflects on family, friends, work colleagues and customers which make them feel happy.

#### **MINDSET**

Having a proactive positive mindset with a clear vision enables you to be more focussed on your personal and work goals.

When you feel positive you are able to cope with the stresses of day-to-day challenges both at home and in the work place.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Whether you are at home or at a place of work it needs to be a fresh, functional and friendly environment.

Tidiness, simplicity, systems, good habits and daily routines should make your personal home and/or work environment a place that you want to be feeling happy and energised.

### Poor sleep affects all of these elements.

Believe it or not, sleep is the biggest hurdle to elevating performance and creating your ideal life.

How you go to bed at night and how you sleep and then wake up, will effect your performance more than anything else you do.

**INTRO** 

Healthy
adults need
between 7.5
to 9 hours of
sleep
per night
to function at
their best.

**BENEFITS** 

## Sleeping is no mean art: for its sake one must stay awake all day. ~Friedrich Nietzsche

Feeling rushed, anxious, overwhelmed and/or stressed can cause you to lose sleep - of that there is no doubt. The downside of losing sleep is that it reduces your ability to operate at an optimum level to be effective in your personal and work life.

### Having a great sleep will enable you to:

- Stay alert
- Make clearly thought out decisions
- Feel fresh throughout the day
- Wake up without an alarm
- Cope with stress and anxieties
- Exercise better
- React faster to danger
- Maintain good judgement
- Maintain a good memory
- Manage your weight
- Maintain problem solving skills
- Maintain your immune system
- Have greater focus and clarity
- Feel energised throughout the day

Just as
exercise
and
nutrition
are
essential for
optimal
health and
happiness,
so is sleep.

The amount of sleep required by the average person is five minutes more. ~Wilson Mizener

Common Signs of Sleep Disorder

Look over this list of common signs of sleep disorders, and talk to your doctor or health professional if you have any of them:

- It takes you more than 30 minutes to fall asleep at night.
- You awaken frequently in the night and then have trouble falling back to sleep again.
- You awaken too early in the morning.
- You frequently don't feel well rested despite spending 7-8 hours or more asleep at night.
- You feel sleepy during the day and fall asleep within 5 minutes if you have an opportunity to nap, or you fall asleep at inappropriate times during the day.

Continued

**SLEEP ISSUES** 

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#### Continued...

- Your bed partner claims you snore loudly, snort, gasp, or make choking sounds while you sleep, or your partner notices your breathing stops for short periods.
- You have creeping, tingling, or crawling feelings in your legs that are relieved by moving or massaging them, especially in the evening and when you try to fall asleep.
- You have vivid dreamlike experiences while falling asleep or dozing.
- You have episodes of sudden muscle weakness when you are angry, fearful, or when you laugh.
- You feel as though you cannot move when you first wake up.
- Your bed partner notes that your legs or arms jerk often during legs are concerned about any of these please consult a professional health advisor.
- You regularly need to use stimulants to stay awake during the

SLEEP ISSUES continue

Relax before you go to bed.

NO TV
instead
take a bath,
read a book
or listen to
soft music

**SOLUTIONS** 

It is a common experience that a problem difficult at night is resolved in the morning after the committee of sleep has worked on it. ~John Steinbeck

### 12 tips on how to get a great sleep

- 1. Go to bed at the same time every night. Make this a time when you usually feel your eyes dropping and drowsiness setting in. Do not fight this to keep watching a TV show.
- 2. Wake up at the same time every day. Train yourself to wake up with out the alarm. When you go to bed look at the current time on your watch or clock and say to yourself **ten times** the time that you want to wake up. Within a couple of weeks you

will wake at this time.

- 3. Fight drowsiness straight after dinner. Keep yourself awake until closer to your normal
  - bed time. If you give in to the early drowsiness, you may wake up during the night and

struggle to get back to sleep.

- 4. Avoid the following foods three hours before bed; fruit juice, alcohol, chocolate, pork, vinegar, ice cream, sweet desserts, candy and coffee.
- 5. Foods that promote a restful sleep are cheese, plain yoghurt, seafood, hummus, lentils, eggs, sunflower seeds, beans and brown rice. Build these into your evening meals.

Stay away from large meals late at night.

Light meals are best.

# MORE SOLUTIONS

## There is more refreshment and stimulation in a nap, even of the briefest, than in all the alcohol ever distilled. ~Edward Lucas

- 7. Keep your room cool and dark. Temperature can vary between summer and winter; too hot to sleep in the summer and too cold to sleep in the winter. Keep the temperature in your bedroom at about 18°C all year round if you can.
- 8. Relax before you go to bed. No TV or technology 30 minutes prior to sleeping, it stimulates you. Read a book, take a bath or warm shower, listen to soft music. You can also contract and relax your muscles starting at your feet, then in turn your lower legs, thighs, buttocks, groin, tummy, back, chest, arms and shoulders. **Gently contract for 3 seconds then take 3 relaxed breaths** and do the next muscles. Do this up to three times through and you will find it easier to sleep.
- 9. If you wake with an idea in your head get out of bed and write it down so you can go back to sleep again.
- 10. Have a routine to your day. Wake up at the same time, meditate or take time to wake up by sitting in the early morning sun (in summer at least), exercise for 20 30 minutes, eat a nutritious breakfast before you start your day and stay fuelled to keep your energy up. It is recommended that no stimulating drinks after 3pm. Do a short walk in the evening, enjoy your evening meal and time with your family. Relax and chill out.
- 11. Make sure you have a comfortable bed and the right pillow(s). If your mattress is more than 10 years old, it could be compromising your sleep. Only buy your mattress from a specialist bed store

You can have your Ideal Personal and Work Life full of Happiness, Energy and Health.

LET ME HELP YOU TO MAKE IT A REALITY.

# Mark Sutherland Owner and Director of Gold Medal Performance Systems Ltd

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