School Stress

What are your memories of your own school days? Do you remember school as fun, boring, exciting, a time to be with friends? Some children experience a great deal of stress associated with school.

What might be some things that trigger school stress?

Possible Answers:
- being bullied
- having work incomplete or turning work in late
- not knowing the answer
- being slow in sports
- not having fashionable clothes (having out-of-date clothes)
- losing papers and books
- having inadequate school supplies

What are some of the symptoms of stress in children?

Possible Answers
- irritability
- depression
- impulsive behavior
- fear, anxiety, worries
- sleep problems
- nervousness
- headaches

How can we help children deal with and overcome school-related stress?

Possible Answers:
- have realistic expectations for the child
- teach them some simple relaxation techniques
- provide reassurance and encouragement
- help them identify their learning style and ways to learn information
- provide nutritious meals
- get plenty of sleep
- cut down on chaos at home—where’s my shoe, my backpack etc.?
- don’t over-commit the child with too many extra activities
- manage time wisely
- spend time having fun
- prepare for tests and discussions
- be available to listen to your child

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