



The Love Yourself Project
Healing Our World With Art & Self-love

Mindful Breathing Exercises

Consider trying these mindful exercises at school during recess, lunch, or before or on a field trip or if you are a caregiver when they come home from school or before bed. These exercises can bring calmness into the space.

Starfish (Five Finger) Breathing: Trace your hand with a finger, with each up or down movement, inhale or exhale.

Ocean Breathing: Cup each ear with a hand and breathe deeply.

Elephant Breathing: Hold your hands in your lap, with your thumbs resting next to each other. With each inhale raise your thumbs up, with your exhale bring them back down to rest. Option: Sitting or standing with each inhale, raise your arms to the sky, on the exhale back down to your lap. Or hold a hand of classmates, and thumb breathe together as you walk in a circle or down the hall.

Spiderman Breathing: Sit crisscross on the floor (but can also be done walking). Place palms skyward on your knees. Bring your ring and middle finger in so that they are touch your palms. With each breath open your hands, with each exhale, bring in your ring and middle finger.

Quiet Coyote Breathing: Hold up your hand in the air like a quiet coyote. With each belly breath, slowly drop your thumb to create the look of a breathing coyote. Exhale. Repeat.

Butterfly Breathing: Clasp your hands together like you are begging, trying to also get your forearms and elbows to touch. Squeeze your hands and arms together and breathe out. On the inhale, keeping hands clasped & slightly under chin, lift your elbows a bit above your shoulders. On the exhale, bring your elbows down so they touch again. Repeat.

Shark Fin Breathing: In a seated position, place your hand in front of your face like a Shark fin. As you lower your hand to your heart say to yourself: “Sit Straight, Sit Still, Sit Silently, Shut Eyes, Softly Breathe.” “I have the power to make wise decisions.” Repeat.

Smell a Rose, Blow Out a Candle. Repeat.

Blowfish Breathing: Cup your mouth with your hands, like a mask. With each inhale open your hands like gills. Repeat.

Balloon Breathing: Use the Hoberman Sphere (Breathing Ball) to fill up our bellies. Or just put your fingertips together and create your own breathing ball. Breathe 3 times alone, then with a neighbor.

Elevator Breathing (Breathing Buddies): Laying down, have kids see how big they can make their bellies, with each breath. For more fun, place a breathing buddy (a stuffed animal) on their bellies to see how high they can get their buddy to go up. Limit the number of floors to 3, 4 or 5 depending on age.

Rocket Breathing: Press hands flat together (the capsule), in front of heart placing elbows (the engines) on the floor. Breathe in, and as you inhale the rocket takes off (up the center of your body until arms are up above your head, exhale back down so that the elbows land back on the earth. Repeat.

Firecracker Breathing: Press hands flat together in front of heart (the fireworks). Breath in, and as you inhale the rocket takes off (up center of your body until arms are up above your head. CLAP. Then exhale out, with your fingers sparkling downward to be the exploding fireworks. Repeat.

Crocodile Breathing: Arms out straight, hands together (right arm above left), breathe-in big and deep while raising right arm, exhale all at once, close crocodile's mouth.

Beach Ball Breathing: big breath while opening arms wide and then overhead they come together, slowly - as if against resistance- push (hands rest on top of each other) as if pushing a beach ball underwater, while exhaling.

Flower Breathing: Begin in child's pose, inhaling and rising up onto the knees extending arms and face up to the sky like a flower opening up in the sun, exhaling reversing back into child's pose arms by side (curling up like a flower in the evening time).

Buzzing (Bumble) Bee Breathing: Buzzing on the out breath (BZZZZZZ...), sucking in honey on the in breath. Repeat. A fantastic way to bring the energy of a class down.

Dragon Breathing: Breathe in while making dinosaur hands, exhale fire out, bring hands down.

Water Faucet Breathing: Put your arms outstretched, sides of fists touching. Squeeze hands tight and breathe in- exhale and release fingers, sprinkling water down making a shhhhh sound). Repeat.