

Anxiety

Tips for Parents and Caregivers of Anxious Children

It is normal for every person to have some amount of anxiety from time to time, but when anxiety begins affecting your child's school and home functioning, there are many things you can do to help your child in addition to possibly consulting a mental health professional.

- Listen to your child's worries and fears and remind them that they are not alone and that other kids have worries too
- Help children address their concerns and if they are not realistic, help them see the truth
- Help your child gradually ease into new situations that may cause anxiety and provide encouragement when they are in these situations
- Practice relaxing including deep breathing, counting to 10, visualizations (taking a pretend field trip to the relaxing beach or a peaceful meadow), and listening to calming music
- Encourage structured play dates or extracurricular activities if your child has an anxious temperament
- Promote your child's independence and build on their strengths