

<u>Information for Children - Emotionally</u> <u>Based School Avoidance (EBSA)</u>



Everyone can feel worried or anxious about going to school sometimes, but some children feel so upset that they don't want to go to school at all.

This is called Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA).

Different things can worry us about going to school...

It may be the schoolwork that worries us

Something about the building that worries us Maybe you don't want to leave your parents at home

Your relationship with other pupils or teachers

Some children will be so worried about going to school, they may want to stay at home where they feel comfortable and safe. Often, these worries will arise again in the evening and the following mornings and so they would stay at home the following days as well.

This will probably make them feel better, or less anxious to begin with. Over time, the more they stay away from school, other concerns will arise such as worrying about the work they are missing, fear of seeing teachers and friends again and feeling out of it. This then makes it more difficult to return. This is why it is so important to talk to someone at school or at home about our feelings.

If you feel this way

It is important that you talk to someone; this can be one of your parents or carers, an adult at school or a family member or friend.

Think of the following questions to help you start talking about your thoughts about school;

What are the three things you like most about school?

What are the three things you dislike most about school?

Or if you can't talk about it, maybe you could draw a picture of what you're worried about

EMOJIS CHECKLIST

Look at the emojis below, circle any emoji that matches how you feel to help start a conversation with an adult.



Here are some things you can do to help you relax or to distract you when worries arise. Talk to the adults at home or at school about these.

<u>Box Breathing -</u> also known as four corner breathing



Five senses technique

Also known as the '5,4,3,2,1' technique.

- Look around you and name five things you can see.
- Focus on your body and recognize four things you can feel.
- Listen for three sounds you hear around you.
- · Name two things you can smell.
- · Name one thing you can taste.

Keep active and exercise:

You can try:

- Star jumps,
- Running in the garden,
- Play games such as football or netball
- Gymnastics

'Write and rip' -

Write your worries or negative thoughts on a piece of paper, tear it up into small pieces and throw it away.



Useful Apps

:)

Smiling Mind

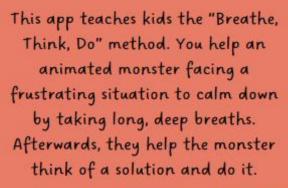


Smiling Mind offers hundreds of mindfulness activities for all ages. In addition to breathing meditations, the app has sensory exercises, like listening to music.

Three Good Things: A Happiness Journal

This app can help you build mindfulness based on a simple idea: If you write down three good things that happen to you each day, you will feel happier. You can set a reminder to write each day, and you can look over past journal entries.

Breathe, Think, Do With Sesame







Super Stretch Yoga HD can help you learn the importance of relaxation and breathing. The app teaches you how to do 12 different yoga poses. Each pose is introduced with short animations, a live video with a child doing the pose, and an explanation.

Childline is an organization specifically for children and young people. You can check their website for more information or you can call and speak to an adult who will listen to you.

www.childline.org.uk Freephone helpline 0800111