

Thrive activities useful for parents of children up to 16 years old – week seven

We can think of giving our adolescents a rich diet of social and emotional support and that diet needs to contain the right ingredients, Dr Dan Siegel recommends all adolescents have a balance of what he describes as ESSENCE to create the right recipe for healthy social and emotional growth. Each week we will continue to have a focus on the elements of ESSENCE, as well as an element of Emotional Health and wellbeing, to be able to describe how we think, feel and relate to ourselves and others and how we interpret the world around us.

Monday	<p>Emotional Health and wellbeing - connect in with our internal thoughts and feelings.</p> <p>Keep a reflective journal, you may write or draw in it.</p>
Tuesday	<p>Emotional Spark - passion to live life fully.</p> <p>Create either a family tree, or draw a tree of connection, put all your friends and family on it!</p>
Wednesday	<p>Social Engagement - important connections such as mutually rewarding relationships.</p> <p>Set up a virtual movie night! Then review the films - which is the best film you have watched?</p>
Thursday	<p>Novelty - Creating new experiences in challenging ways stimulating senses and emotions</p> <p>Plan a dream trip! What are you planning to do when lockdown is lifted, where will you go? What will you do? Who will you go with?</p>
Friday	<p>Creative exploration - seeing the world through a news lens</p> <p>Have a go at origami! Have a go at Yoda! Post your piece on our Facebook group!</p>

Top Tips:

- ✓ Adolescence is a time of significant brain growth, re-structuring and development. Neuroscientific research and understanding, informs how we as adults can support adolescents to flourish and Thrive.
- ✓ As adults it is helpful for young people to have us alongside them to reflect on their thoughts, feelings and experiences.
- ✓ It is useful to think with them when solving problems rather than offering up all the answers, coming up with solutions together.
- ✓ Making the most of small moments to connect during the day through a shared activity, meal, walk or whilst relaxing on the sofa, will help young people have a full cup to face any potential challenges or difficult feelings.
- ✓ To find out more about the growth and development in the adolescent brain, [click here.](#)