

HEALTHY SLEEPING HABITS

How much sleep is enough?

There are no exact number of hours of sleep required by all kids in a certain age group, but the National Sleep Foundation suggests:

- Preschoolers (ages 3 to 5) need 10 to 13 hours of sleep a night.
- School-Age kids (ages 6 to 13) need 9 to 11 hours of sleep a night.
- Teens (ages 14 to 17) need 8 to 10 hours of sleep a night.

The average kid has a busy day. There's school, taking care of pets, playing with friends, participating in sports practice or other activities, and doing homework. By the end of the day, kids need sleep. However, a lot of kids are not getting the sleep they need. National experts surveyed kids about their sleep habits and here's what they learned:

- 70% of kids said they wish they could get more sleep.
- 71% of kids said they feel sleepy or very sleepy when it's time to wake up for school.
- 25% of kids said they feel tired at school every single day.



Six tips for bedtime

It may be a challenge to make a change to your children's bedtime routine, but if you stick to it your efforts will pay off.

1. Help your child prepare for school the night before by laying out their clothes, backpack, etc.
2. Set up a routine where kids slow down before bed and go to bed about the same time each night.
3. Avoid screen time at least one hour before bedtime.
4. Make the bedroom a cozy environment where your child wants to be.
5. Make the bedroom a screen-free zone.
6. Adjust your child's bedtime earlier if they are not getting enough sleep.