



## Different Ways to Soothe Yourself: Mentally, Emotionally & Physically – Workshop Handout With Prompts

Use this space to explore and personalize the ways you can soothe yourself in different areas of your life.

### Mental Soothing

- - Mindful Breathing – Inhale slowly for 4, hold for 4, exhale for 4. Repeat.
- - Guided Meditation – Use apps or YouTube to follow a voice-led meditation.
- - Grounding Exercises – Name 5 things you can see, 4 you can touch, 3 you can hear, 2 you can smell, 1 you can taste.
- - Visualization – Picture a calm, safe place in your mind. Imagine yourself there.
- - Positive Self-Talk – Speak to yourself as you would a loved one: “I am doing my best.”
- - Journaling – Write out what’s on your mind. You don’t need solutions—just expression.

Prompts to explore:

- Which mental strategies have helped you in the past?
- What thoughts often overwhelm you? How could you interrupt them?
- Describe a peaceful place you can visualize when you feel anxious.

My own ideas or notes:

## Emotional Soothing

- - Name the Feeling – “I feel anxious.” Naming it can take away some of its power.
- - Crying – Let yourself release emotions. It’s cleansing, not weakness.
- - Hug a Trusted Person or Pet – Physical affection can calm the nervous system.
- - Art, Music, Dance – Express your feelings nonverbally through creativity.
- - Affectionate Self-Compassion – Hold your hand to your heart, or gently wrap your arms around yourself.
- - Write a Letter (You Don’t Send) – Say what you need to say. Burn or tear it after, if it feels right.

Prompts to explore:

- What emotions do you find most difficult to soothe?
- Who or what brings you emotional comfort?
- Write about a time you successfully calmed your emotions.

My own ideas or notes:

## Physical Soothing

- - Warm Bath or Shower – Helps relax muscles and slow the stress response.
- - Weighted Blanket or Soft Fabrics – Brings a sense of containment and comfort.
- - Stretching or Gentle Movement – Yoga, walking, or swaying to music.

- - Drinking Something Warm – Tea, warm milk, or even hot water with lemon.
- - Scent Therapy – Use calming scents like lavender, chamomile, or sandalwood.
- - Cold Water Splash – On your face or hands—it can reset your nervous system in moments of intensity.

Prompts to explore:

- Which physical activities or sensations feel most soothing to you?

- How does your body usually respond to stress?

- What self-care practices help you feel grounded?

My own ideas or notes:

