

# Thank You!

Thank you so much for downloading this resource! I sincerely hope that it helps you to continue making a difference in the lives of students.

## About CounselorChelsey:

Hello! I am a licensed social worker with experience as a school based counselor, working in a mentorship program for teens, and am now a curriculum developer. My favorite part of my work has always been developing high quality resources for students to use. Since becoming a curriculum developer, I have loved being able to impact thousands of classrooms around the world! For more information and resources, please visit [www.CounselorChelsey.com](http://www.CounselorChelsey.com)

## About This Resource:

This resource is designed to give parents and families ideas and resources to help their children who are struggling with anxiety. There are two handouts, each available in color and black and white. The first is about anxiety in general. The second handout is about anxiety as it specifically relates to the times of crisis. Times of crisis can be defined as anything that causes disruption to a family. This could include family deaths, changes in family structure, job loss, health crises, moving, etc. The editable version of this resource is available as another file in the download.

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# ALL ABOUT ANXIETY

Anxiety is worries or fears that are frequent and overwhelming. The feelings don't have to be caused by something specific. People facing anxiety can also have physical symptoms like sweating, dizziness and difficulty sleeping.

## QUICK INFORMATION:

- There are about 4.4 million children in the U.S. between the ages of 3-17 who have been diagnosed with anxiety.
- Anxiety can present itself in many ways. Children may feel stressed or panicked. They may have difficulty focusing or sleeping, and they may also feel physical effects like a stomachache or a headache.

## TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- Talk to your child about how they are feeling. Help your child develop ways to cope with their anxious feelings like deep breathing, exercising, and using positive self talk.
- Manage your own anxieties. Different life circumstances can leave us all feeling anxious. Our kids can pick up on this, so it is important to keep your conversations age-appropriate and reassuring.

## WHAT TO SAY:

- "I am here for you."
- "Let's work through this together. How can I help you?"
- "I know this is hard."
- "You are safe. I am here."
- "What is your worry telling you?"

## RESOURCES FOR PARENTS:

- [Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents](#) by Reid Wilson and Lynn Lyons
- [What To Do When You Worry Too Much](#) by Dawn Huebner
- [www.worrywisekids.org](http://www.worrywisekids.org)
- [Growing Up Brave](#) by Donna Pincus

## WHAT NOT TO SAY:

- "Stop worrying."
- "Get over it."
- "This isn't a big deal."
- "I don't understand what you're so worried about."
- "It's fine."

## PICTURE BOOKS FOR KIDS:

- [Wemberly Worried](#) by Kevin Henkes
- [Wilma Jean: The Worry Machine](#) by Julia Cook
- [The Huge Bag Of Worries](#) by Virginia Ironside
- [Silly Billy](#) by Anthony Brown

# TIPS FOR ANXIETY DURING TIMES OF CRISIS

## IDEAS FOR PARENTS:

- Explain the incident in age appropriate language. Start by asking what they already know about what is happening.
- Be available to support your child with their feelings and fears.
- Stick to the normal routine as much as possible.
- Limit your child's exposure to adult conversation about the topic. This includes the news if applicable.
- Allow your child to see you handling your own anxiety in a positive way.
- Talk to children about your plan to keep them safe.

## WHAT TO SAY:

- "How are you feeling?"
- "I know this is hard for you. How can I help?"
- "Here is what we are going to do to stay safe..."
- "Let's come up with a plan."
- "Would you like a hug?"
- "I'll keep you updated when I find out more information."
- "I'm here for you."

## WHAT NOT TO SAY:

- "This isn't a big deal."
- "We don't know how bad this will get."
- "I don't want to talk about this any more."
- "Nothing is going on. Everything's fine."
- "I don't understand why you are acting like that."
- "I don't know how we'll get through this."

## IDEAS FOR CHILDREN:

- Start a gratitude journal. Gratitude is a great way to combat anxiety.
- Practice deep breathing.
- Write or draw pictures about how you feel during this time.
- Remember that how you are feeling is okay!
- Find activities that help you feel calm like reading, drawing, exercising, or connecting with friends.
- Remind yourself that you are safe.

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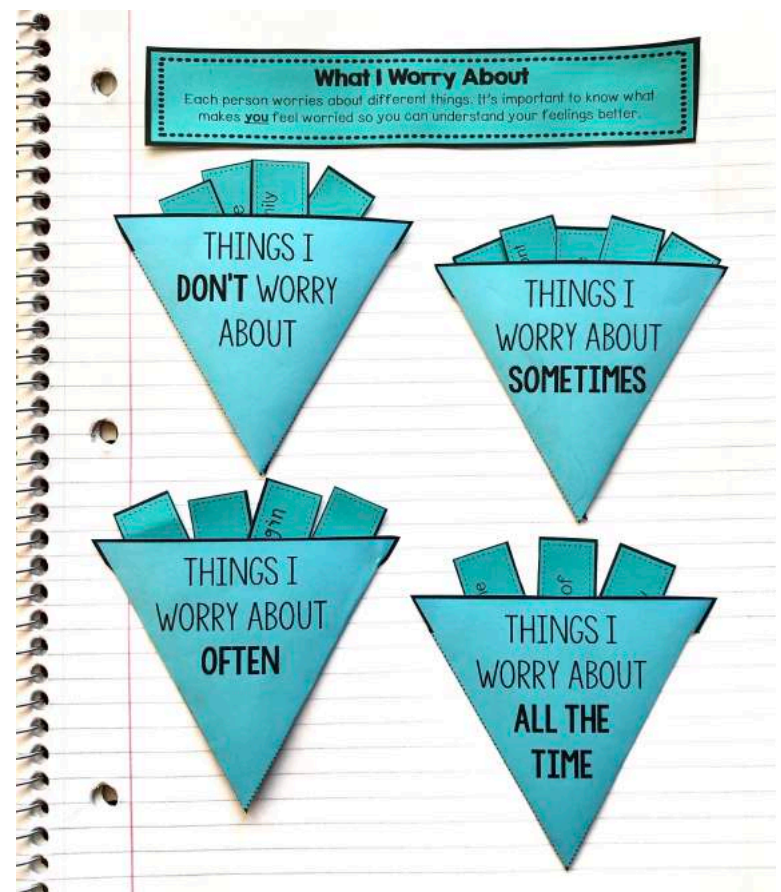
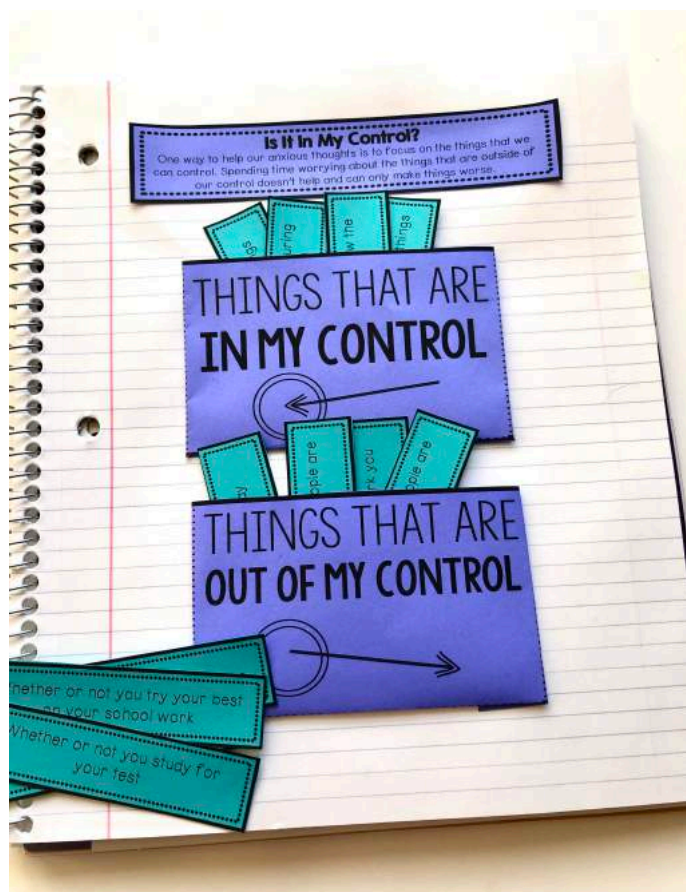
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# SUPPORTING ANXIOUS STUDENTS? TRY THIS INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOK!

These 8 interactive notebook pages will help your upper elementary students learn strategies to help them cope with their feelings. Students will learn how their anxiety affects their brains and bodies, how to identify their anxiety and how to develop positive coping skills. This resource includes full templates, written directions and photo directions for 8 pages.



SEE IT HERE: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/ANXIETYINB](https://bit.ly/anxietyinb)